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home

July 2017

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No.1
home and garden
magazine



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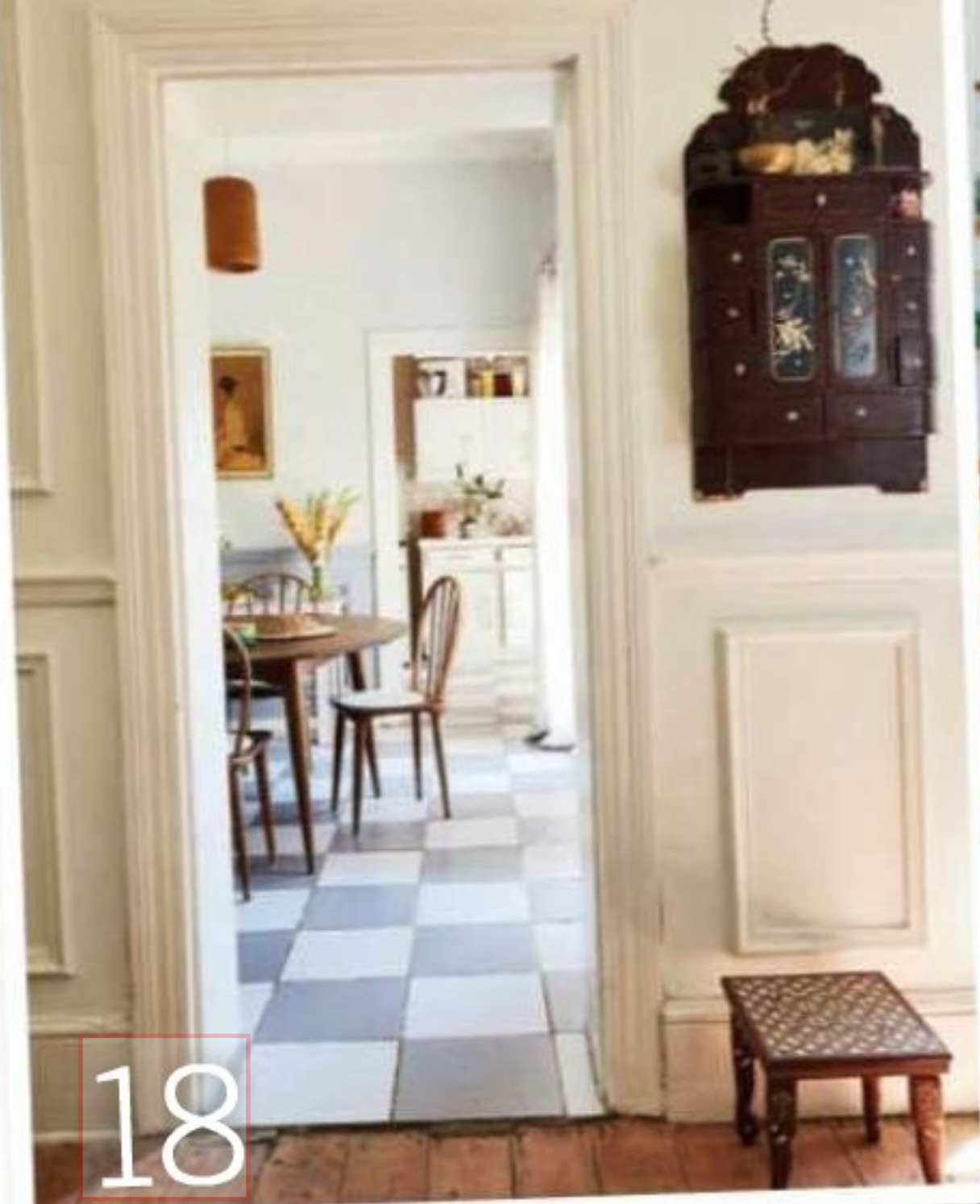


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Hello



AI and AR.

No, it's not a new refrigerator. Those are the abbreviations for two technological phenomena that will apparently transform our lives.

AI stands for "artificial intelligence" and AR for "augmented reality" – and if the experts are to be believed, these two developments will drastically change life as we know it.

I don't mind change, but sometimes – just sometimes – I long for the familiarity and security of the things I know well. My thinking is this: in order to embrace change, I need a firm foothold. And surely this foothold is the "familiar" things?

I remember once, probably about 10 years ago, I stayed at Lekkersing in the Richtersveld. We arrived in the late afternoon and our hostess made it clear: either you eat before *7de Laan* or after *7de Laan*. At Lekkersing that was how things were done and as the sun set, *7de Laan*'s signature tune became the soundtrack of dusk, ringing out from every house and echoing across the rocky veld. This was before the days of DStv's Explora and Catch Up or watching in-app on your phone. You watched TV in real time, along with the rest of the world – not when it suits you while you lounge on the sofa.

Which brings me back to AI and AR. Already, there are cars that drive themselves. Here at Media24, our online fashion store, Spree, offers technology that allows you to take a photo of your friend's dress or scarf or shoes and then the app searches the online store for a similar dress, scarf or shoes...

Facebook already knows what you watch or search for in their app and it gives you more of the same if you check your timeline – because they know you'll like it. Google knows exactly where you are, and often correctly guesses where you're going. Just this morning my phone announced: "Take Buitengracht to the office, traffic is moderate." I didn't ask, but Google was quick to inform me!

And believe it or not, there's such a thing as a "chatbot" with which you can have a very satisfactory discussion using messages that look like SMSes or Whatsapps – but you're talking to a robot! It makes me think of those stories about people who want to marry blow-up dolls...

I may feel totally different a year or two from now and we might by then all have chatbots instead of dogs (I hope my chatbot barks less than my current, real dog), but for now I'm grateful that everything in this issue, from the reader homes and décor to the gardens and food, are all "homemade".

Apparently, we have only seen 10% of the changes that will occur on the technological front over the next few years. I look forward to all the new things, but find it hard to believe that a chatbot will one day make a better curry than our food editor, Johané (see for yourself on [page 110](#)).

If that does happen, it had better be served in a beautiful bowl that conveniently dropped from my cellphone's headphone jack. I have high expectations...

Wicus editor@homemag.co.za

Home Paint It, our annual special issue that focuses on colour, paint techniques and paint makeovers, is now on shelf. It's available at retail stores countrywide but if you struggle to find a copy, email editor@homemag.co.za.



home

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Published by Media24, Naspers Centre, 40 Heerengracht, Cape Town, 8001. Tel: 021 406 2121

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let's colour



your space

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WINNING LETTER *In our own style*



Blaise Sheasby of Rugby, Cape Town writes We have long had a slightly different style of decorating and early last year we converted a bedroom and our granny flat for Airbnb rental in much the same style.

Our home is fun and interesting and our guests love our décor. In fact, a handful of them suggested we share a few pictures of our space – and where better than in *Home*! We have a really long dining room that's evolved into a communal area. Our dining table is about 7m long and we have a bank of industrial cage lamps above it (like auto electrician lead lights). We also invariably leave our Christmas baubles up far too long after Christmas – you can see them in the photos!



Home sweet home

Michelle le Roux of Johannesburg writes

As the weeks drew closer to my move back home from Arusha, Tanzania, I sat salivating over my digital copy of *Home*. Unfortunately, there were few offerings of home décor in that country. Yes, Tanzania has gorgeous African arts and crafts, but Arusha is further north where home décor just isn't a thing. My only creative sanity was my monthly copy of *Home*; I delight in the eclectic fusion of colour and style that fills your pages and inspires me. On my visits to South Africa, I would grab whatever printed copies of *Home* I could find and when I eventually returned home to SA, I brought every last copy back with me. I can't wait to create my new space!

The art of gardening

Gayle Hodgen of Midrand writes You invited readers who are proud of their gardens to send in pics. I'm certainly proud of mine, so here they are!



6 home July 2017

IN SHORT

I bought this beautiful piece from Hey Jude's Antiques Barn just outside Pietermaritzburg. I fell in love with it and saw all its potential. I've since done a number of other furniture makeovers. Take a look! – Liesl Boshoff, Pietermaritzburg



The editor reserves the right to edit letters at his discretion.

WIN! The writer of the winning letter receives a MRP Home bedroom hamper worth R1 500!

MRP Home offers luxury and comfort with their Premium Range bedding. Made up of 100% cotton percale, this deluxe range is breathable and cosy – perfect for winter! Offering a wide selection of patterns and plain styles as well as a range of sheeting options, this Winter Warmth Premium Range Hamper is sure to keep you snug and well rested during the cold months ahead.

• For more details, go to mrphome.com or visit MRP Home's Facebook page.





COBBLE RIDGE

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diary

ON THE BOX

An expert renovations and real estate duo, Drew and Jonathan Scott of *Property Brothers*, help homeowners take their next step up the property ladder in the series *Buying & Selling* (Season 4 starts July 10 on the Home Channel, 176 on DSTV). Find out what it takes!



We Create National Quilt Festival

3–8 July: Collegiate Girls High School, Port Elizabeth

Attention all quilt-lovers! Sign up for a variety of quilt- and textile-related workshops, including one by two of the Tentmakers of Cairo – a first for South Africa! The exhibition of hand- and machine-made competition quilts, from traditional to art quilts created by top quilters and textile artists in SA, is not to be missed. Tickets cost R50; for details, go to festival.quiltsouthafrica.co.za.



World of Dogs and Cats Pet Expo

14–16 July: Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, Gauteng

Enjoy everything from dancing dogs to prancing ponies, meet celebrity pets and discover which breeds make the best pets for your family. With special feature areas for cats, dogs, horses, reptiles and exotic pets, you can interact with a huge range of breeds and buy treats and care products for your own furry friends. Tickets cost R100 for adults and R50 for under-12s; visit dogscats.co.za.

Get your cultural kicks at one of these local arts festivals!

29 June – 9 July: National Arts Festival, Grahamstown
Whether you're into comedy, theatre, jazz or ballet, you'll find it all in Grahamstown at the biggest annual celebration of the arts on the African continent. Buy tickets online at nationalartsfestival.co.za.

30 June – 21 July: Plett ARTS Festival, Plettenberg Bay
Sate your arty self at this festival with its gorgeous setting and revel

Vanessa Cook and Vuyelwa Maluleke in *Tartuffe*.

in music, drama, comedy, art exhibitions and award-winning films. Go to plett-tourism.co.za for details.

5–8 July: Innibos Lowveld National Arts Festival

With more than 300 artists, actors and musicians as well as a free theatre, cinema venue and hundreds of craft stalls, you can expect an event full of surprises. Tickets are available at innibos.co.za or through Computicket; call 013 741 5294.



Compiled by Shané Barnard

Send diary entries to diary@homemag.co.za at least three months before the event.

29 June – 8 July: Visit the AVA Gallery in **Cape Town** for an exhibition of 55 regional finalists in the PPC Imaginarium Awards. Emerging artists and designers have created works using Portland-based cement as the primary medium. Entry is free; call 021 685 0169.

1: Visit the I Heart Market at Moses Mabhida Stadium in **Durban** on the first Saturday of every month for homemade products including fresh foods, fashion, homeware and art; email info@iheartmkt.com.

2; 9; 16; 23; 30:

The Jazz and Cheese Fondues at Delheim's intimate wine cellar in **Stellenbosch** are not to be missed (starts 25 June and ends 27 August). Enjoy piping-hot Swiss-style cheese and jazz tunes by local bands; go to delheim.com.

7–16: The Pick n Pay **Knysna** Oyster Festival offers a diverse programme of family activities, gourmet offerings and sports events – and, of course, oysters! Visit oysterfestival.co.za.

13–16: Roast your own coffee and pair it with chocolate in the Cocoa Mokka Music Lounge at the Coffee and Chocolate Expo at Montecasino, **Johannesburg**. Buy early bird tickets for R120, or get them at the door for R150; go to coffeechoc.co.za.

17: August issue of Home on sale!

18: Whether it's knitting a scarf or donating time to a local charity, do your bit for **Mandela Day!**

21–30: Enjoy the **Hogsback** Winter Celebration!

You can expect cooking demos, food and wine pairings, craft markets and talks on a variety of subjects; visit hogsbackinfo.co.za.

29: Head out to the historic Muratie Estate in **Stellenbosch** for a fireside celebration of Cape Port-Style Wines at the Flavours of Winter Festival. Tickets cost R100 and include a tasting glass; call 021 865 2330 or email taste@muratie.co.za.





TOPS ON TOP

Cindy Crawford on Silestone Countertop




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Please send décor and lifestyle news to news@homemag.co.za.

what's new

Compiled by Kim Arendse

FINE FABRICS

We love the affordable new fabric range from Love Milo! Printed with ecofriendly ink on 100% cotton canvas (R400/m; 1.5m wide), it features birds, dragonflies, stripes and triangles. Shop at lovemilo.com.



TOP SHOP



At The New Modernist, 142 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, you'll find restored furniture pieces that are a celebration of Modernism's finest moments, all curated by Emma de Crespigny who worked as a collector and dealer in New York before relocating to Cape Town and opening the mid-century décor store C20 Galerie in Woodstock, which she still owns. Visit if you're looking for one-of-a-kind statement pieces. Go to thenewmodernist.com.

HOT PRODUCTS

The range of mild steel pressed-ceiling panels from online store parklanedecor.co.za are becoming popular for another purpose: splashbacks! With a lick of clear lacquer, the affordable panels (from R489; 1 220 x 610mm) can be added to your kitchen wall for an instant metallic touch.



Make a style statement anywhere in your home with these pretty Delft-inspired vinyl tile stickers (R85/sheet; 30 x 30cm) from Heidi J Design. Go to facebook.com/heidijdesign.



LOCAL IS LEKKER

The new 450m² GUILD venue at the V&A Waterfront Silo District is a must-see! It includes a concept store offering works “from the most interesting artisans in Africa”, such as these gorgeous mugs from ceramicist Clementina van der Walt. There’s also a studio where you can shop for furniture made by South African designers. It’s the perfect one-stop shop for homeware and gifts!

Photograph Ben Orkin



Check out the new LED half-mirror globes from Illumina! We love the striking Edison screw-cap bulb (R499; 176 x 125mm); go to illumina.co.za or find them in lighting stores countrywide.



WATCH THIS SPACE!

BUSINESS Popstrukt Furniture
WHO Adriaan and Michelle Louw
WHERE Paarl

THEIR WORK Adriaan and Michelle Louw’s online furniture store offers quality, designer “flatpack” furniture – so whatever you buy will come packaged in its separate parts, which you can then assemble. Yes, just like Ikea! Each piece of timeless, minimalist furniture comes with instructions, or you can download them from their website. “The instructions make our products fun and easy to assemble, so you can be involved in a way not yet experienced by South African furniture buyers,” the couple says. Shop at www.popstrukt.com; they deliver nationwide. 🏠

Must-have!

Boardman’s luxurious new offering is right on trend and oh so comfy! You can expect earthy and jewel tones in a variety of décor items while faux fur blankets and fleece throws take centre stage as the definitive winter must-have. Visit boardmans.co.za.



Blanket drive

Muriel Hayes (82) of Panorama, Cape Town is an avid knitting and crochet enthusiast and is quick to make a plan when something needs a new purpose. Years ago, she crocheted a number of colourful floral cushion covers but when she no longer used the cushions, she separated the fronts of the covers from the backs and joined all the crocheted pieces together with turquoise yarn. A decorative border added the finishing touch and now the cheerful new blanket is used every day.



ON **second** THOUGHTS...

Don't discard old items – re-use, recycle and refurbish!

Panel discussion

Cornelia Linnegar of The Painting Shed in Wellington is passionate about transforming old furniture into eye-catching pieces with paint techniques and embellishments – like this gorgeous black wardrobe with its decorative panels.

If you have a display cabinet or armoire that needs a bit of love, try the following: paint the cupboard a dark charcoal (such as Annie Sloan Graphite) and seal it with Annie Sloan Clear Wax. Then print an image that appeals to you to fit neatly inside the panels. (Ideally, the two panels should be made to match, as Cornelia has done.)

Use podge to apply the images onto the panels and to seal them. >>

Psst!

While you're at it, paint the inside of the cupboard too!



By Johané Neilson, Marian van Wyk and Shelly Bergh
Photographs Francois Oberholster, Ed O'Riley and Elza Cooper



Rug from MRP Home; bone toy from Checkers



1 In disguise

Do you have an ugly distribution box in your kitchen? We came across this ingenious solution in Frank and Gerda Halewijn's Middelburg home. They covered the door of the box with the same wallpaper as the focal wall around it so that it 'disappears' into the background. The cute cupboard with its spoon handles was bought at Eau-La-La's exhibit at Kamers/Makers a few years ago.

2 Cosy up

We made this snug doggy bed from a discarded jersey, an old scatter cushion, batting and wool remnants. Firstly, we sewed the neck closed with the wool, then we inserted a roll of batting into each sleeve and another roll into the space between the "shoulders". The "body" of the sweater was stuffed with a squashed old scatter cushion. The bottom third of the jersey was folded over and sewn to the back. Finally, the sleeves were sewn to the body of the jersey to form a cosy nest.

3 Mini me

Rebecca Valentine of Bellville has endless fun in her mobile play kitchen which mom Belinda and grandpa Malcolm Neilson cleverly created from an old TV cabinet. They removed the unnecessary shelves, painted the unit with a good quality primer and then added cute accessories: a 'refrigerator door' made of thin steel plating (Rebecca uses it to display her artworks with magnets); a real tap and sink with a working drain; and an 'oven' with a Perspex door, touch lights and shelves that all look super realistic!

Look up!

We love the black letters on the ceiling in Steam restaurant in Stellenbosch – and you can achieve the same playful effect at home. Choose different fonts and sizes and try one of these methods:

VINYL STICKERS Buy vinyl in the colour of your choice at a plastics supply store such as Maizey and have the letters laser cut (Cape Craft Services, Dewaalart or mywalltattoos.com offer such services).

CARBON PAPER Print letters on paper then paste the paper on a sheet of tracing paper and stick this onto the ceiling with masking tape. Now trace the outlines with a pen. Colour in the letters carefully with an artist's brush.

STENCIL Trace the letters onto Priplak (available at craft stores like The Deckle Edge) and cut them out carefully with a craft knife. Spray the stencil with repositionable spray glue, stick it onto the ceiling and paint over the stencil with a small sponge roller; once dry, remove the stencil. 🏠

STOCKISTS AND CONTACTS

Annie Sloan
anniesloansa.co.za
Cape Craft Services
 021 981 4007
Checkers 0800 01 07 09,
checkers.co.za
Dewaalart 021 790 9120,
dewaalart.com
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MRP Home
 0800 212 535, mrphome.com
Steam Restaurant
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The Deckle Edge
 021 180 4442,
deckleedge.co.za
The Painting Shed
 082 621 4257,
thepaintingshed.co.za



Cut-out clock
(35cm D) R269,
@home



Metal grid lamp (53cm tall)
R599, Woolworths



Koza vase
(33cm tall) R495,
Weylandts

Round shaggy rug
(150cm) R999.99,
MRP Home



Living it up!

Make your lounge the place to be with these fabulous finds.

By Kim Arendse

Grey curtain
(230 x 218cm)
R279.99 for two
drops, Sheet Street



Felix glass vase (60cm tall) R850, Coricraft

Splash out!
Nguni hide
R3 999, Poco



Europe coffee table
(100cm L x
100cm W x 40cm H)
R3 500, MRP Home



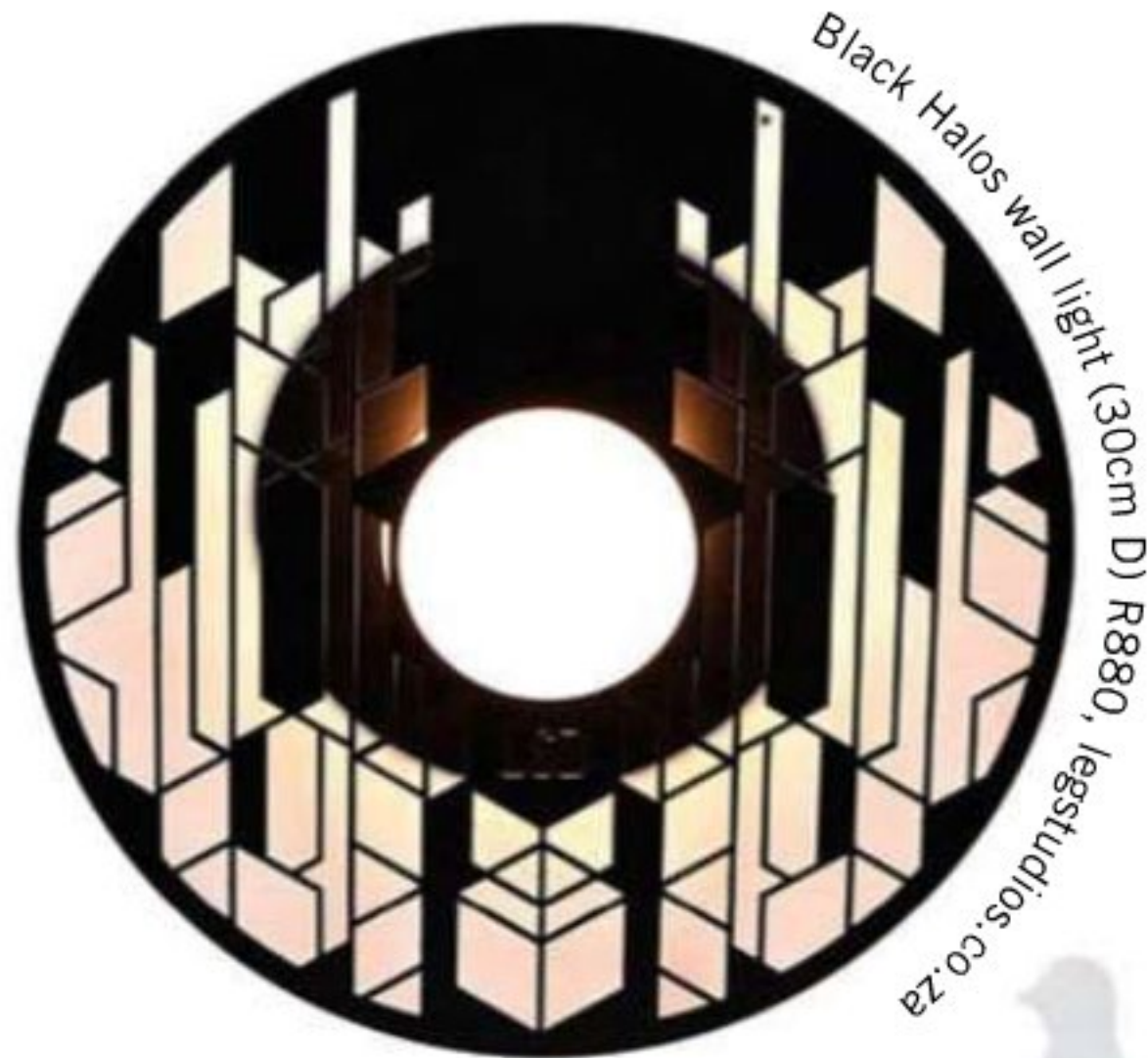
Candleholder
(2.2cm D x
13cm H) R229,
H&M Home

Stripe scatter covers from R395,
Skinny laMinx



Phill corner chaise R5 999, Poco

STOCKISTS @home 0860 576 576, home.co.za **Block & Chisel** 021 691 0878, blockandchisel.co.za
Coricraft 011 611 8700, coricraft.co.za **H&M Home** 0860 690 707, hm.com/za **MRP Home** 0800 212 535,
mrphome.com **Poco** 021 841 1500, poco.co.za **Sheet Street** 0800 212 535, sheetstreet.com **Skinny laMinx** 021 424 6290,
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Weylandts 021 914 1433, weylandts.co.za **Woolworths** 0860 022 002, woolworths.co.za



Black Halo wall light (30cm D) R880, legstudios.co.za



Magazine holder
R1 450,
@home



Zambonie floor lamp
(1.54m) R499.95,
The Lighting Warehouse

Hooks with
bird detail
(76 x 30cm)
R528, Tintown



Wooden leaves
frame
(26.2cm L x
21.2cm W)
R225,
Woolworths

On trend!
Hexagonal coasters
R175 for two,
legstudios.co.za



Kubu rattan basket
(56cm W x 61cm H) R995,
Block & Chisel



Fae Chinese cabinet
(67cm W x 37cm D x
67cm H) R5 995,
Block & Chisel

Katung bamboo basket set (from 26cm-
40cm tall) R1 165, pilgrimagespaces.co.za



So cosy!
Faux fur throw R1 995,
Weylandts 🏠



A pretty garden, rustic cement steps, an inviting stoep and blue front door make for a warm welcome. The waterwise gravel garden surface also serves as a security measure with its crunching sound underfoot.

PARDON MY French

In this charming home, bohemian style is given a chic Parisian twist.



Who lives here?
Katia Lekarski, Chad
MacDonald and their
daughter Milla (6)
WHERE Observatory,
Cape Town
SIZE 120m²



A lick of paint!

Katia and Chad weren't keen on the original beige ceramic floor tiles in the kitchen and dining area. Instead of having them chipped out and replaced, they decided to paint them in a grey and white checkered pattern. First, they cleaned the tiles with sugar soap before adding a layer of standard tile primer (try Plascon Tile & Melamine Primer). They had the grey of the polythurene paint (a mixture of slate and silver) mixed at Builders and used white paint for the rest. Working their way from one side of the room to the other, they hand-painted the edge of each tile with a small brush then used a small sponge roller to neatly fill in each one. If you'd like to try this, paint the tiles with a tinted Plascon Velvagio in a colour of your choice and top with a coat or two of clear Plascon Glatex 8 Enamel.

The round dining table was an antique find. Katia says the black mantelpiece with gold detail "chose her at an auction" years ago. She introduced a bit of French flair by painting the wall panels a delicate blue – Plascon Bottlenose Dolphin.

Stoneware jug and storage jar from Le Creuset





At first glance, this home in Observatory, Cape Town is all bohemian chic with its lush, untamed garden and laid-back vibe.

Inside, painted second-hand finds, pretty patterns, low furniture, high ceilings and pops of colour also fit the boho bill.

But closer inspection reveals another style in this beautiful home – an unexpected but distinctive French touch. Katia Lekarski, owner of fashion and lifestyle concept store Colletterie, and Chad MacDonald, co-owner of Wembley Studios in Cape Town, have blended the two aesthetics to perfection.

And it's no surprise: Katia, a former model, moved from Paris, her home city, to settle in Cape Town in 2003 after falling in love with the Mother City while on a shoot. "I admired the mixture of nature and city life," she says. "I thought it was amazing that you could go to work and climb a mountain in the same day!"

The next decade saw her move from apartment to apartment in the CBD, the rented spaces restricting her desire to decorate. It was only when she moved into this home with Chad, just before their daughter Milla was born, that she could fully unleash her décor creativity on this "blank canvas". >>

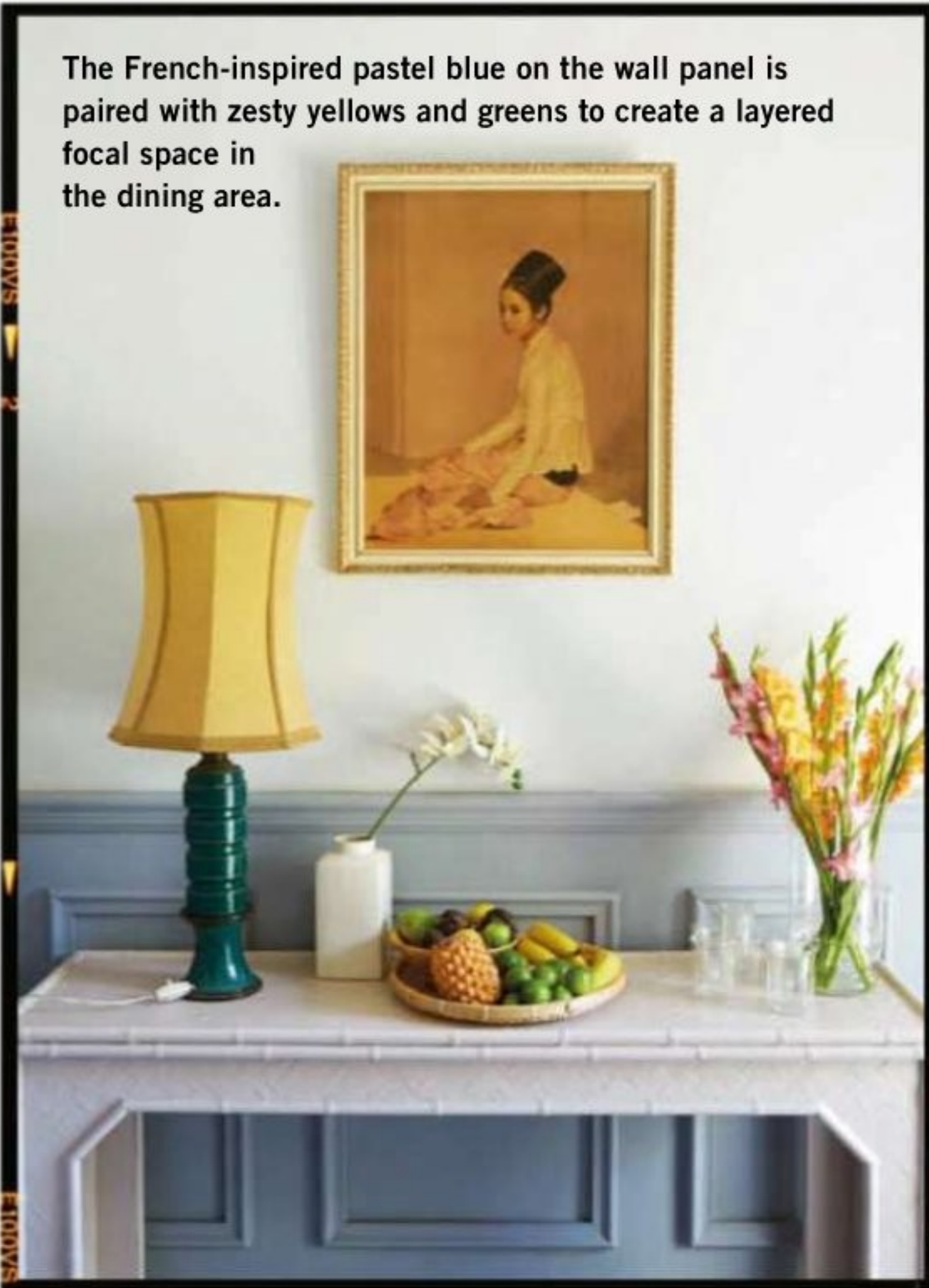
It's in the detail

We love these photographs hung up with clips on a wire. "There's a mixture of entrance tickets, postcards, French café pictures and family Polaroids to remind us of special moments," says Katia. Solid wooden panels on the walls add a touch of grandeur, while the blue couch, fun scatters and kilim create that bohemian magic.

Wooden panels by Cape Town Timbers; chandelier from Eagle Lighting; tables from Hertex; knit blanket and cushion (far right) from MRP Home



The French-inspired pastel blue on the wall panel is paired with zesty yellows and greens to create a layered focal space in the dining area.

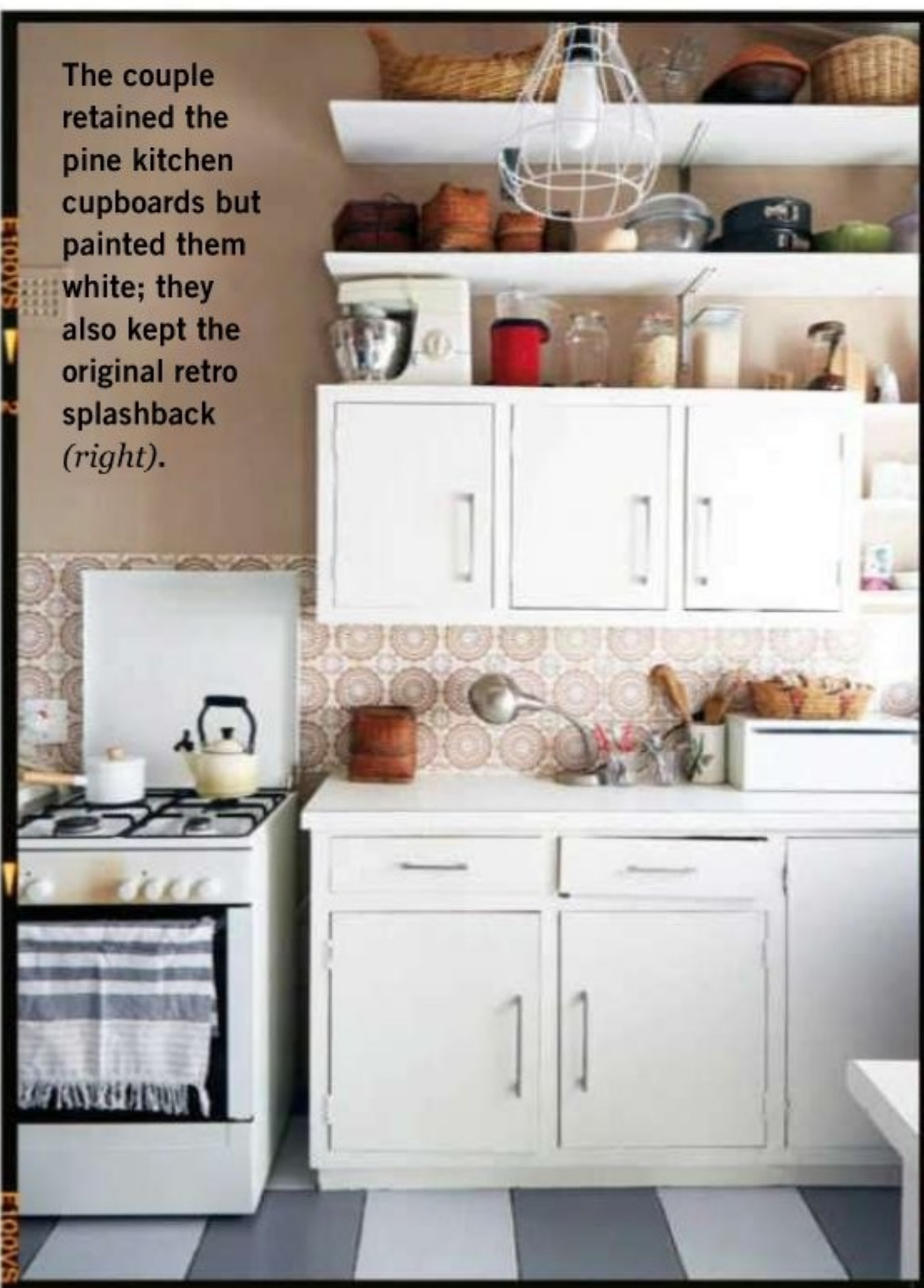


In the guest room, a fireplace was transformed with leftover silver-blue matte paint. Simple, framed pictures and dainty vases against the contrasting wallpaper create a lovely focal point.

Wallpaper from St Leger & Viney; yellow vase and mug from MRP Home



The couple retained the pine kitchen cupboards but painted them white; they also kept the original retro splashback (right).





Open wooden shelves with pots, pans and jars of ingredients create a country look in the light-filled kitchen. S-hooks in different sizes provide clever hanging space for everyday utensils. >>

The cool, white metro tiles on the walls of our *new en-suite bathroom* remind me of the Paris Metro. – *Katia*

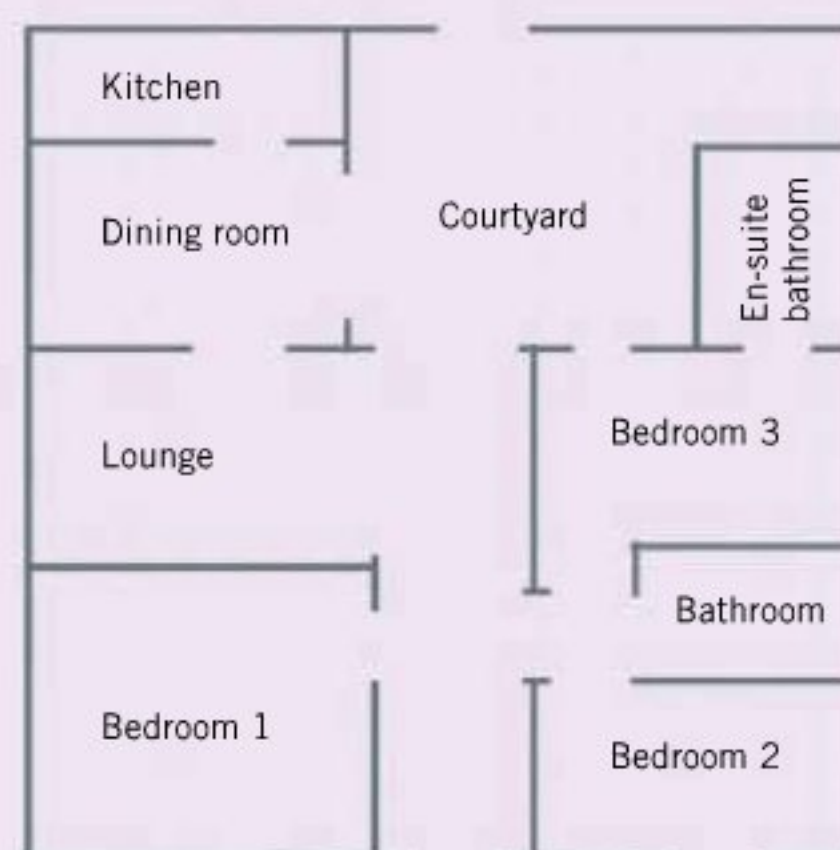
These cement tiles were bought at World of Decorative Concrete, a sister company to Stucco Italiano in Brackenfell, Cape Town. Katia chose the pattern and colours from their set list.



A hanging tent makes for a fun, cosy corner in little Milla's room; it was a sample made up for Katia's online clothing and décor store. Swan wallpaper covers one wall while another is painted in pretty pink with colourful bunting adding a whimsical touch.

Swan print wallpaper from Laura Ashley in the UK; rug from MRP Home

Floor plan



A lick of paint!

Katia created this painted-on headboard for the main bedroom using cut-out cardboard and leftover paint.

As a reminder...

"I do miss Paris sometimes, so being surrounded by items that remind me of my life there comforts me," Katia says. Using their home's good bones as a starting point, Katia added a touch of French flair in the form of panelling, luxurious pendants and chandeliers, and elegant details such as the brass plates behind all the door handles.

The couple also made a few basic structural changes: they renovated the bathroom, created a main bedroom en suite, added wooden frames to the doors and cement frames to the windows, and laid tiles in the courtyard.

"The house just felt right; I loved the warmth and light – and when I saw the huge frangipani tree in the front garden, I made up my mind to buy it! Now, after years of introducing our own style, it's officially 'home'," says Katia. >>



Blue cushion from MRP Home; throw from The Pause Room



The couple left the original raw cement front stoep as is. Old school chairs that Katia painted, a small table and a few potted plants set the scene. A bright pink hammock completes the bohemian look.

Table from Boardmans; mugs from MRP Home



Veggie boxes full of tomatoes, chillies, herbs, aubergine and kale sit between the trees in the front garden.



Katia's top décor tips

- A comfy couch and eye-catching rug is a must!
- Pouffes and throws in an eclectic style are an affordable way to inject style into a room.
- Add accessories you love to an uncomplicated palette.
- First consider your space then try to use what you already have to create the look you want – but don't force a style where it's not meant to be.
- Keep your furniture useful and purposeful; our dining table is always filled with art glitter and I love it!
- I'm more concerned about how a space makes me feel, than how it looks – the décor, the light and even the smells (think scented candles!) all play a part.
- Pay attention to floors, strong door and window frames, wall panels and door handles.
- Introduce pastels on the walls.
- Combine rough, older items with more refined ones.
- A hammock and draped fabric never hurts.

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It's in the detail

Jasmine is being trained up the trellis around the window so its heady scent can be enjoyed indoors too.

It's in the detail

To create a country feel, Katia bought shutters on auction and painted them in Plascon Bottlenose Dolphin before adding them to the courtyard windows.



Table and chairs from @home;
scatters from Loads of Living

reader home



Who lives here?

Janelle and Bruce Enslin,
and their son Noah (6)

WHERE Durban North

SIZE 300m²

AN inside JOB

Through the process of decorating her own home, Janelle Enslin created her dream space – and forged a brand new career path!

By Kim Arendse • Photographs Sally Chance
Styling Janelle Enslin



Janelle recently added accents of warm orange to the previously blue and white lounge, injecting energy into the room she describes as “bohemian vintage”. An ottoman covered in a blue slipcover adds a pop of colour and doubles up as a second coffee table. >>

Blue and orange scatters
from Beloved Interiors



The interesting structure and texture of the old home's stucco exterior is one of the many things the couple love about their home.



Wooden bench from Amatuli

The Enslin family of Durban had always lived in rented properties, patiently waiting to find a place they could renovate and decorate as they pleased.

They finally found what they were looking for in this 90-year-old, sea-facing property; they fell in love with its location, interesting structure and old-world charm and purchased the house in August 2015. But the interior was a far cry from the elegant and eclectic home it is today.

"The previous owner, who lived on this corner plot for 45 years, hadn't really done any renovations," Janelle says.

The home required a few structural changes and a complete décor makeover – the perfect challenge for Janelle. She certainly rose to the occasion – in fact, she ended up pursuing a career in interior design and these days runs her own interior decorating business.

But before she could start experimenting with her own look, several walls had to be knocked down to create various open-plan spaces, especially in the front of the house which faces the ocean.

Mustard-coloured carpets throughout the home were ripped out, fixtures had to be updated and built-in cupboards were installed.

Once the renovations were done, every room was given a fresh coat of paint – as were the exposed wooden ceiling beams, window frames and door frames.

Next, Janelle started to fill their home with interesting items, including many from the UK, where they lived for six years. While she may not have had any official training, Janelle, who previously worked in HR management, has always had a knack for designing spaces. Here, she was able to unleash her creativity. Friends and family encouraged her to pursue her passion full-time, which she did in March 2016 when she launched Beloved Interiors.

"I had a three-year struggle with health issues, and it would have taken considerable effort to re-join the corporate world, so I decided to invest my efforts into my own business instead," Janelle explains. "This quickly evolved into a small online store and interior design consultancy. As the end of the renovation more or less marked the end of my illness, we named our home Hope Cottage." >>

Throughout the home (above and below), art collections are displayed simply and elegantly.

Lampshade fabric from Mavromac & The Gatehouse; rug from Coricraft; white chair a second-hand find



A seagrass rug anchors this area in Noah's bedroom. Bright colours stand out against the white walls, creating a stylish yet playful zone.

Rug and scatters from Hertex; painted wooden chest is a second-hand find; black wire pendant from Weylandts; small table and chairs (painted with a variety of Annie Sloan paints) from Mistry's; bird wall art was a market find

Clever idea!

Janelle added a black pompom trim to these sheer white curtains.



Floor plan

Ground floor



First floor

Although several walls were knocked down to open up the space, the couple kept all the detailed lead-glass doors and windows. In the dining area, now part of the open-plan kitchen, an old pine table is surrounded by mismatched white chairs. The cabinet was bought at a charity shop and Janelle painted it with UK brand Farrow & Ball's Breakfast Room Green.



The wall-mounted light above the sink adds a vintage touch and complements the pendants suspended over the kitchen island. >>

Wood-look tiles from CTM; pendants from Weylandts; wall light from Smileys at Home; rug from Hortex; dining room pendants from Weylandts

Mix and match

Janelle's flair for layering rooms with a mix of old and new as well as bold and muted colours is evident in all the rooms. "It's important to me that old and new pieces work together and that items with personal significance are included in a space; in every room I've included things that hold precious memories or that I've inherited from my grandmother and parents," she says.

"Nothing should match perfectly, yet it should all tie together with a common thread. For example, there is some blue and white in almost every room because I love the colours and because we live very close to the sea and I wanted to feel as if I'm always on holiday."

But Janelle doesn't follow any other décor rules when decorating. "You should fill your home with things you find beautiful or meaningful," she says. "If something brings you joy, include it in your décor and be confident in creating a space that's true to who you are, your lifestyle and your story."

The guest room (right) has a laid-back yet luxurious feel with its textured finishes and sheer drapes. Janelle made the headboard from plywood and an old foam mattress covered in a simple striped fabric. She used genuine grain sacks to make the neutral cushion covers on the bed.



Headboard fabric from Mavromac & The Gatehouse; white quilt from MRP Home; bedside lamp from Lightco

This lovely reading nook is in the main bedroom; the floral cushions and couch are covered in genuine vintage fabric remnants that Janelle found in the UK.



An embellished headboard behind this writing desk creates an interesting focal point in a corner of the main bedroom.

Pendant from @home; curtain fabric from Mavromac & The Gatehouse





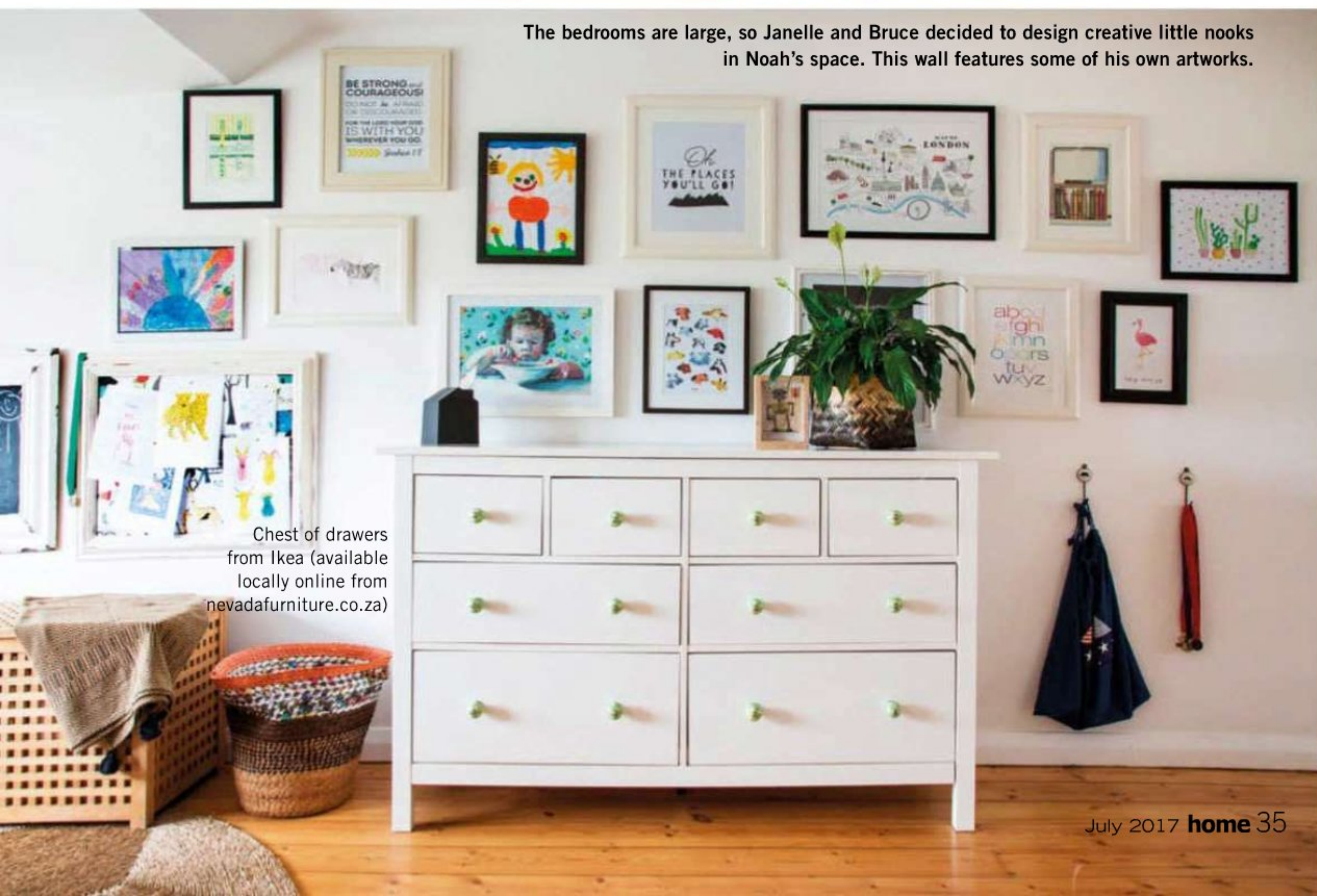
When they lifted the carpets, the Enslins discovered Oregon pine strip floors which they had sanded and polished.

Fabric on headboard and bedside lamp from St Leger & Viney; quilt from Biggie Best; accent wall painted in Plascon's Pink Marshmallow



The vintage-look ceramic tiles on the floor introduce a touch of blue, Janelle's favourite colour.

Floor tiles from Italtile; wall-mounted lights from Amatuli; towel ring from MRP Home



The bedrooms are large, so Janelle and Bruce decided to design creative little nooks in Noah's space. This wall features some of his own artworks.

Chest of drawers from Ikea (available locally online from nevadafurniture.co.za)



A simple trestle table and pinboards (*above*) make up Janelle's studio in the guest room. In Noah's bedroom, a daybed from Ikea (*left*) opens out to form a double bed for visitors; the second-hand pine side table has been painted with Annie Sloan's English Yellow for a playful touch. Trendy hexagonal floating shelves hold cute and colourful knick-knacks.

Black-and-white rug from MRP Home; scatters from Zana, Moroccan Warehouse and M nagerie; daybed covered in a quilt made by Janelle 🏠

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THREE'S company

Creative triplets with an eye for design
share this serene space – and a passion for music,
people and mohair.

By Frieda le Roux • *Photographs* Henrique Wilding • *Stylist* Marian van Wyk

Who lives here?

Andrea, Marion and
Claudia Wandel

WHERE Somerset West

SIZE ±350m²




The old teak shutters are from Onsite Gallery in Cape Town. Not only do they conceal the staircase, but they also add warmth to the otherwise neutral palette.

Slipcovers on the couches and ottomans make for easy living. The floors are solid pine treated with a white oil from ProNature.

Rectangular cushions from Weylandts



A bright, minimalist room with a white grand piano, a window with a rustic wooden frame, and a white sofa. The room has a high ceiling with a skylight and a small shelf. A violin and bow are on the piano. A music stand with sheet music is to the right. A white sofa with a patterned pillow is in the foreground. A wicker basket is on the floor in the bottom right.

For the Wandel sisters, life is all about the here and now.

For these German siblings, being mindful is the key to happiness and self-expression and the spaces, light and textures in their home in Somerset West serve as a conductor for their creativity – as a collective but also as individuals.

Marion, who lives in South Africa most of the time, discovered “The White House”, as they fondly refer to their tranquil home with its view of the ocean. “We know the former owners; they said they’d never sell the house,” recalls Andrea. “But Marion always knew that one day it would be our home. And she was right!”

The sisters first came to South Africa on a vacation 15 years ago. They liked what they saw and decided to invest in property. Since then, Marion has relocated to South Africa – she only spends about one month a year in Europe – while Andrea currently divides her time between South Africa and Europe. Claudia only visits for about four weeks a year.

All three sisters studied classical music, but Andrea is the pianist. “Whenever she is in South Africa, she composes her own music in the style of the Italian pianist Ludovico Einaudi,” Marion says.

More like a holiday home

The former owners, Evi and Jochem Elsner of Home Concept, designed and built the spacious house with its high ceilings and lived there for six years before relocating to Yzerfontein. They're friends with the Wandel sisters and have been back to the property several times – an experience Evi describes as “familiar and strange at the same time”.

The design was focused on easy living, Evi explains. That's probably why people often say that the house feels more like a holiday home. “For us, it was just a very easy-to-live-in home with a relaxed atmosphere where we could accommodate lots of friends – and our pets loved it too! We love that it's still a cosy, light-filled home with beautiful views.”

The sisters, who took ownership in 2016, were taken with the big open spaces that somehow never compromise on privacy. “We also fell in love with the wooden front door and the wooden frame around the window in the living room. We love every detail!”

The house is north-facing with mountain views to the north and the sea visible on the horizon. “You can see it from every window,” Andrea says. “In summer, we love to use the terrace as much as possible.”


Another spot you'll find the sisters in during summer is on the upstairs balcony. “The big couch helps us relax and this is where we spend many lovely evenings with friends.” Thanks to its position, the balcony is protected from the summer wind. >>

The big mirror in the dining area was made by Jochem. Andrea says: “I just love to see the reflections from everywhere and it creates the illusion of even more space. The fabric I've put over it is see-through which creates a kind of three-dimensional effect.”

The dining table and chairs were also 'inherited' from the previous owners.

Kitchen counters made by Stucco Italiano

The old wood of the dining table really speaks to us. *When we fall in love with old furniture, we have to find a place for it! –Marion*



*Extra-long drapes
with tie tops hung
from latte enhance
the dreamy
beach-house look.*

A shared space

This is the first time the Wandel sisters have shared a house with an open-plan design. "The space invites you to be more creative," Andrea, a trauma therapist, says. Her sisters are psychotherapists and all three of them studied classical music: Andrea plays the piano, Marion the violin and Claudia the cello.

"We're all very creative on a musical, spiritual, emotional and mental level and all of us have our own way of expressing it."

In winter, the fireplace anchors the open-plan living area and provides warmth for the entire house. Positioned in a corner, it's visible from various different angles. "It really is the centre of our home," says Andrea.

The wood-burning concrete fireplace was designed and cast by Jochem. Thereafter, Stucco Italiano polished the rim.

Making changes

While all three sisters are artistic, Marion is the one who experiments with the décor most. "I love to play around with decoration. Everything has to look good, otherwise I don't feel at home."

Andrea agrees: "We love to change things around; after all, Wandel means 'change' in German!"

The house has a neutral palette with light and dark grey as accents. A gorgeous range of mohair blankets produced by Andrea and Marion's local business MareaMarea add warmth, texture and colour.

"We employ several people but for us it's a social project rather than a business," says Andrea.

The sisters are committed to their product: "I love the quality of this mohair. It's light and warm; you can wear it as a garment or use it as a blanket or as decoration," Marion explains. Andrea is quick to agree: "It is the best and lightest material you can imagine. You feel protected and safe, and it provides you with warmth in such a tender way."

Just like their lovely home. >>

A latte screen suspended from rope (below) creates some privacy at the front door.



The latte ceiling on the terrace works well with the Nutec cladding on the home's exterior (see left). The cement finish that the sisters love so much is echoed here on the floor and on sections of the wall.



Mohair shawl from MareaMarea; mohair blanket from Adèle's Mohair

Marion's bedroom, the only one on the mezzanine level, is her sanctuary. "My bedroom feels like a big ship. I work with people a lot, so I use the space to take time out and relax." The ceiling is insulated with IsoBoard between the exposed rafters. The two skylights let in plenty of light; they have blinds that help keep the room cool in summer.

Mohair blanket from
Adèle's Mohair





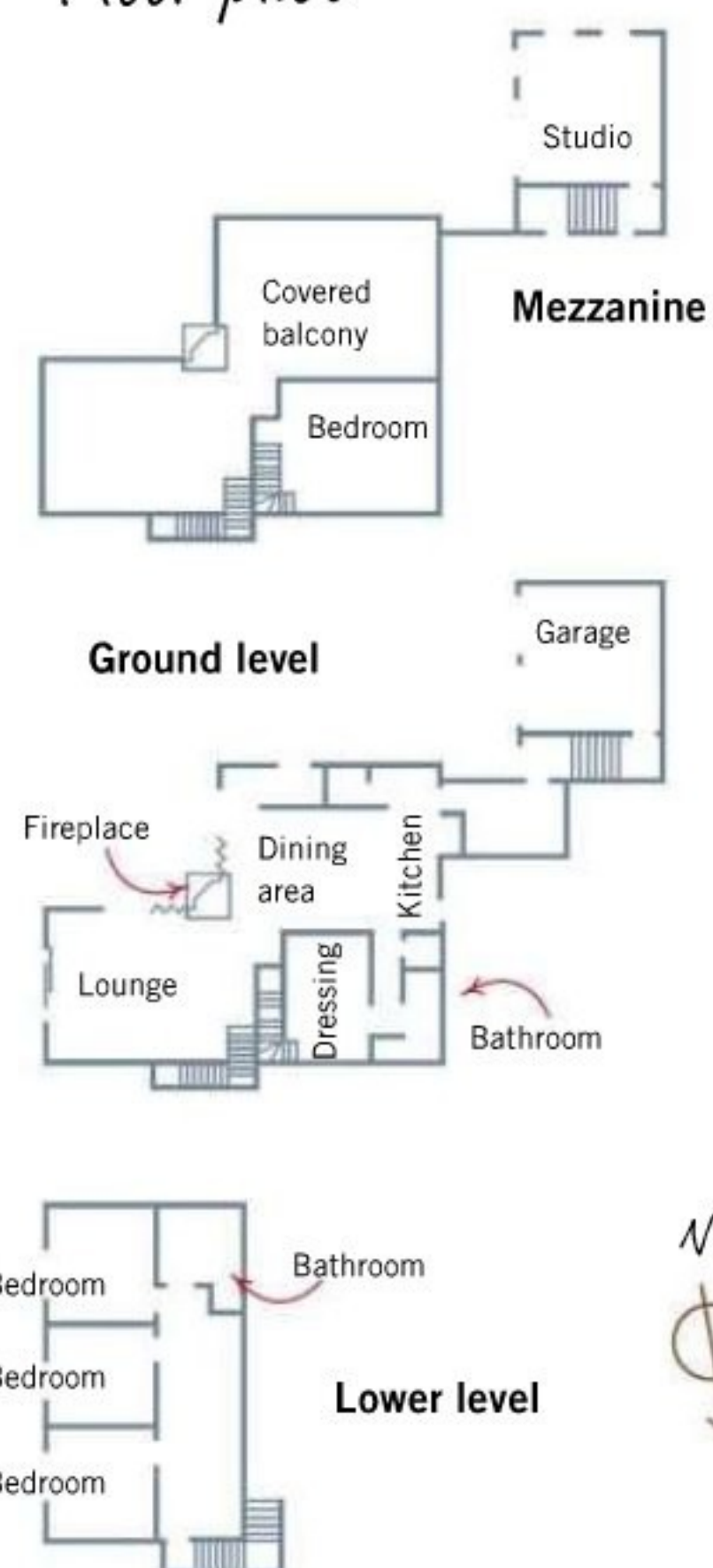
"The cabinet is filled with wool, buttons, needles, pearls and all kinds of little items you need to knit," Andrea says.

The bathroom on the ground level is situated next to the dressing area. The walls are finished with Stucco Italiano wall plaster.



Marion relaxes in the spacious sitting room. "We love the house because of its calm atmosphere and openness." 🏠

Floor plan





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By Beatrice Moore-Nöthnagel
Photographs Francois Oberholster, Henrique Wilding
and Sally Chance
Styling Marian van Wyk and Kim Bougaardt

SIT BACK ...and relax

Whether combined with a kitchen, dining or braai room, a comfortable living area will turn any home into a cosy retreat – perfect for quality time with friends and family.

1 It all happens here

This space in Silvia Miles's Natal Midlands home boasts a fully integrated kitchen and living area where the different zones flow seamlessly from one to the other, forming a practical and functional whole – from the counter unit behind the couch to the island under the mezzanine level where you'll always find someone chopping veggies or catching up on emails.

"The kitchen is our living area!" Silvia, the owner of Milestone Kitchens, explains. "It's got couches, a bookshelf, a spot for the dogs to sleep in, a corner in which to work on the computer and a great music system. It's where everybody does everything, except sleep."

The space is a sizable 80m² and consists of a dining area, cooking area, sitting area and study area, but Silvia doesn't like to label them as such. "It's just one big room and those are the different zones." >>

Wooden stumps and floor lamp from Weylandts; woven pendants and Ash Fabrics upholstery (can be used outdoors) on couch from Nom de Plume Studio



It's in the detail

The oversized butcher's block is Silvia's favourite item in the kitchen; it's on castors and can be swivelled to face the couch.

Must-have!

We love this black crochet rug that Silvia bought from Flordecor at Decorex last year!

Cosy and relaxed

When it comes to décor, Silvia doesn't feel the need to create a typical French, Tuscan or Cape Dutch look: "We live in Africa and it's beautiful in its own right."

A black and green colour scheme works perfectly in this setting. "Green has always been my favourite colour. On the farm, we're surrounded by beautiful big trees, grass and rolling hills," she explains. "Black creates depth and represents the shadows and the valleys; it disappears so it's unobtrusive. But it wouldn't work in a house that doesn't have a lot of windows and light."

Silvia brings the outdoors in with driftwood she has collected over the years used as décor as well as dried twigs in cases, aloes and leaves in glass jars, and stones displayed as focal points. "I use tree stumps as coffee tables and grass mats on the floor to carry the theme through." All of this is tastefully anchored by an engineered oak floor.

"The living area works for our family because it's restful and it's a good place to have a chat with friends over a cup of coffee or a few drinks," says Silvia. "The room is cosy and relaxed and offers plenty of seating options. And there's always a delicious aroma emanating from the kitchen!" >>



The striking wallpaper made up by Smart Art reflects the hundreds of beautiful acacia trees on the farm.



This dog bed on castors keeps the family's pooches off the furniture – the dogs love them and they fit right in with the décor.

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I'm not a winter person; I almost feel depressed when there's no sun,
so the light in this space makes me happy! – Shelley Hills

2 A room with a view

With its magnificent view over the ocean, a sunny living room was the best way for Shelley Hills to make the most of her Port Elizabeth home. "When I purchased the house it was being used as an architect's office space – so, essentially, it was a blank canvas," she says. "It made perfect sense to maximise on the natural light and beautiful vistas by making this area the most focal and functional part of our home."

The open-plan space consists of a kitchen, dining area, undercover deck, study and lounge. "We spend most of our time in the dining area, chatting to friends, playing games or soaking up the sun with a good read. It's definitely the most popular spot in our home," says Shelley.

Because of all the natural light, Shelley didn't have to rely on colour to 'lift' the space. "I decided to keep the palette neutral with décor in various shades of grey to create a seamless flow and so as not to detract from the view. The aim was to keep it simple, stylish and yet still homely."

Shelley isn't a fan of natural or stained wood, so all the wooden frames and stacked doors were painted white to keep the living area light and airy. The floors were originally made up of various types of wood, so painting them white not only saved on replacement costs, but also further brightened up the area.

"I love the space because it's conducive to closeness with family and friends," explains Shelley. "There is always a sense of togetherness, even if my son Cameron is doing homework in the study while I'm watching TV in the lounge." >>

It's in the detail

The kitchen cabinets were custom made and the old rusty pendant lights and vintage metal signs add character. Shelley stuck a "house rules" vinyl sticker above the stove and put a piece of glass over it to create a splashback.

Bright idea!

To ensure that her fabrics didn't fade in harsh sunlight, Shelley added a one-way tinted film to the glass doors instead of blocking the view with curtains or blinds.





Tips 'n tricks

Creating the ultimate living area isn't about bashing out walls, advises interior designer Brigitte Hills, who redesigned this space. Plan well beforehand and bear the following in mind:

- Think carefully about the functionality of the space and carefully consider where the furniture will be placed and how you will move from one area to another.
- If your sofa divides the lounge from the rest of the space, position a server behind it to make it feel a bit more 'anchored'.
- The biggest mistake people make when they have a large living room is pushing all the furniture up against the walls; rather create pockets of seating within the space.
- The kitchen has become the hub of most homes, so getting the design right in relation to the rest of the space is crucial.
- Once you've figured out where the lounge, kitchen and dining areas will be located and you've decided on the position of the bigger furniture pieces, you can start creating 'rooms' for each area.
- A large rug is great for anchoring the lounge and dining area as it helps to define the space.

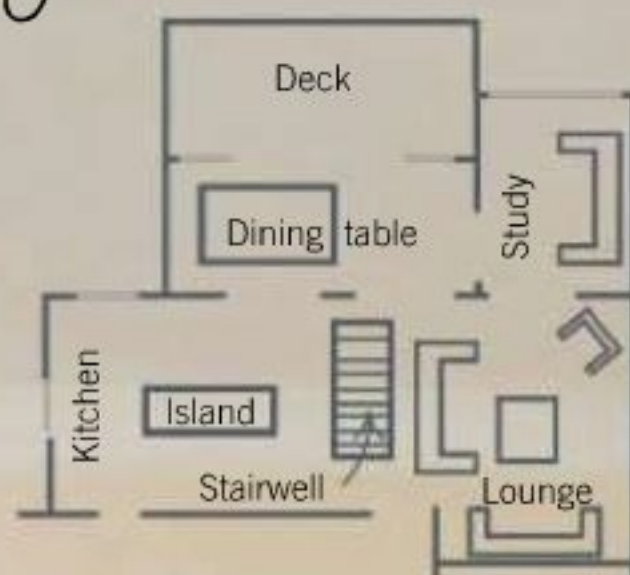
The sideboard under the mirror in the dining room holds a special place in Shelley's heart – it's an old record-player cabinet that she painted, distressed and jazzed up with new doorknobs.

Shelley loves the stacked doors and windows which not only let in lots of light, but also frame the gorgeous ocean view by day and twinkling cityscape at night.

Shelley inherited the dining chairs from her grandmother and had them painted and reupholstered. She discovered the dining table in a second-hand shop and simply painted the bottom white and kept the wooden top natural to add warmth to this area.

living rooms

The layout



The study nook is in the same space as the dining area – the lounge is open plan to the right. After receiving a few inspirational wire words as a gift, Shelley decided to purchase more from local crafters and create a wall full of them (see right).



Shelley
wire words
together
we make family
friends
Can



Silverware and glass make a classic combination – it's sophisticated and adds a bit of bling to a neutral palette. Here, it works especially well on the painted wood and against the raw brick wall. >>



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3 Everyone is welcome

When Lizanne and Johannes van Waart built their Stellenbosch home back in 2003, they had a very clear vision of what they wanted: a spacious living room and stoep were to form the heart of the home – just like the old “*voorkamers*” in the Karoo homes they’d grown up in. “I was raised with the concept of an open home where people can just pop in for a visit, especially on the weekend,” explains Lizanne.

Today, the entertainment and braai area forms part of the stoep with large folding doors opening up onto an inviting swimming pool. Most importantly, everyone is always welcome.

“The stoep is where we get together in the evenings and in the mornings,” says Lizanne. “We enjoy a quick breakfast before work or a glass of wine in the evenings. On weekends, my parents, our children – Henri (30) and Christiaan (20) – and their friends all come to visit.

“In fact, we braai every Sunday evening – it’s a tradition we started many years ago when my kids had to go to boarding school. It was dreadful, so we

decided to cheer everyone up with a braai before they had to be on their way. With both of us being Karoo people, large family meals at the table are important.”

When it comes to décor, curtains were a definite no-no for Lizanne who wanted to let in as much natural light as possible. She describes her style as a combination of old and new with plenty of bright colours, Indian influences and a touch of French flair. “My friends always say they find my house interesting. I see it as a version of myself,” says Lizanne. “I like fabric and colour and I’m very sentimental about things that tell a story. I guess that because I’m a psychologist, people and their stories are close to my heart – and the same goes for my décor.”

STOCKISTS Arabesque 021 424 1234 **Brigitte Hills Interiors** 083 652 9895, brigittehills.co.za **Flordecor** 072 199 3795 **La-Z-Boy** 021 951 7150, la-z-boy.co.za **Milestone Kitchens** 076 949 5745, milestonekitchens.co.za **Natural Stone Warehouse** 021 506 1300, naturalstonewarehouse.com **Nom de Plume Studio** 033 342 4158 **Private Collections** 021 421 0298, privatecollections.co.za **Smart Art** 021 447 0872, smartart.co.za **Weylandts** 0860 103 400, weylandts.co.za

3 hot trends

"The latest living room trends are chic, inspiring and, most importantly, liveable and practical – and they're comparatively easy to achieve," says Claire Gibson from La-Z-Boy. She explains:

1 Closer to nature Natural materials such as leather, wood, stone and metals are more popular than ever, as are earthy tones such as shades of brown, green, grey and off-white. Accents in brighter natural hues such as sky-blue, grass-green and coral-red are perfect for a splash of colour.

2 Marvellous metallics Brushed, satin or matte finishes will add texture while aged copper, brass, gold or stainless steel are great for accents. The trick is to include striking metallic accents without being heavy-handed.

3 Less is more Quality beats quantity! It's all about including a few select statement pieces that stand out because they're so well-crafted or have sentimental value.



It's in the detail

The lights were bought from Private Collections a few years ago. Since Lizanne grew up in the Karoo, she wanted a typical reed ceiling. This one comes all the way from Bredasdorp.

Lizanne loves comfortable furniture. For her, an afternoon nap on a large sofa in the winter sun is a must.



It's in the detail

Lizanne loves Turkish influences. The Turkish-style Travertine tiles are from Natural Stone Warehouse in Paarden Island. The rug is from Arabesque in Stellenbosch.




security

STAY SAFE, in style

The decorative burglar bars in Carla and Braam van der Merwe's home in Oranjezicht, Cape Town form part of the couple's charming white décor palette. The bars had already been installed when the family moved into the house in 2011; they decided to keep them and simply added layers of white in various textures to complement them. The bars in front of the stacking door were custom-made to fit; they also stack and fold.

Security no longer has to fight with your home's aesthetic; in fact, it could even add to the look! Here are our top picks for custom-fitted solutions...

Compiled by Kim Arendse • Photographs ER Lombard, Francois Oberholster, Gareth Hubbard and supplied Styling Shelly Bergh, Marian van Wyk and Amanda van Wyngaardt



These ornate wrought-iron bars were custom-designed by Classic Metals for this guesthouse in Randburg. The many intricate scrolls were created with 5mm flat bar welded together. The gates were coated with a textured acrylic paint created by Classic Metals for a weathered, rustic look.

Location Lemon Tree Guest House
(011 791 1103, lemontreeselfcatering.co.za)

Custom-made burglar bars

Unlike standard burglar bars and gates, custom-made bars (from about R2 000/m²) are easy on the eye and can be designed to fit in with the look and feel of your home, from ornate Victorian-style trelliswork to more contemporary shutter-like designs.

These burglar bars can be painted with a rust-proof covering such as Hammerite, Duram's DTM (Direct to Metal) paint or Oxirite, or you can have the bars powder-coated. This way, you can create a focal point at the entrance to your home and leave doors and windows open without compromising your security.

[KEEP IN MIND...]

If your home is close to the coast, corrosion can become an issue. Check with your manufacturer about their treatment process, maintenance and guarantees.

Tip When ordering custom-made burglar bars, take a look at the manufacturer's body of work – products and installation – and get references before commissioning the job.

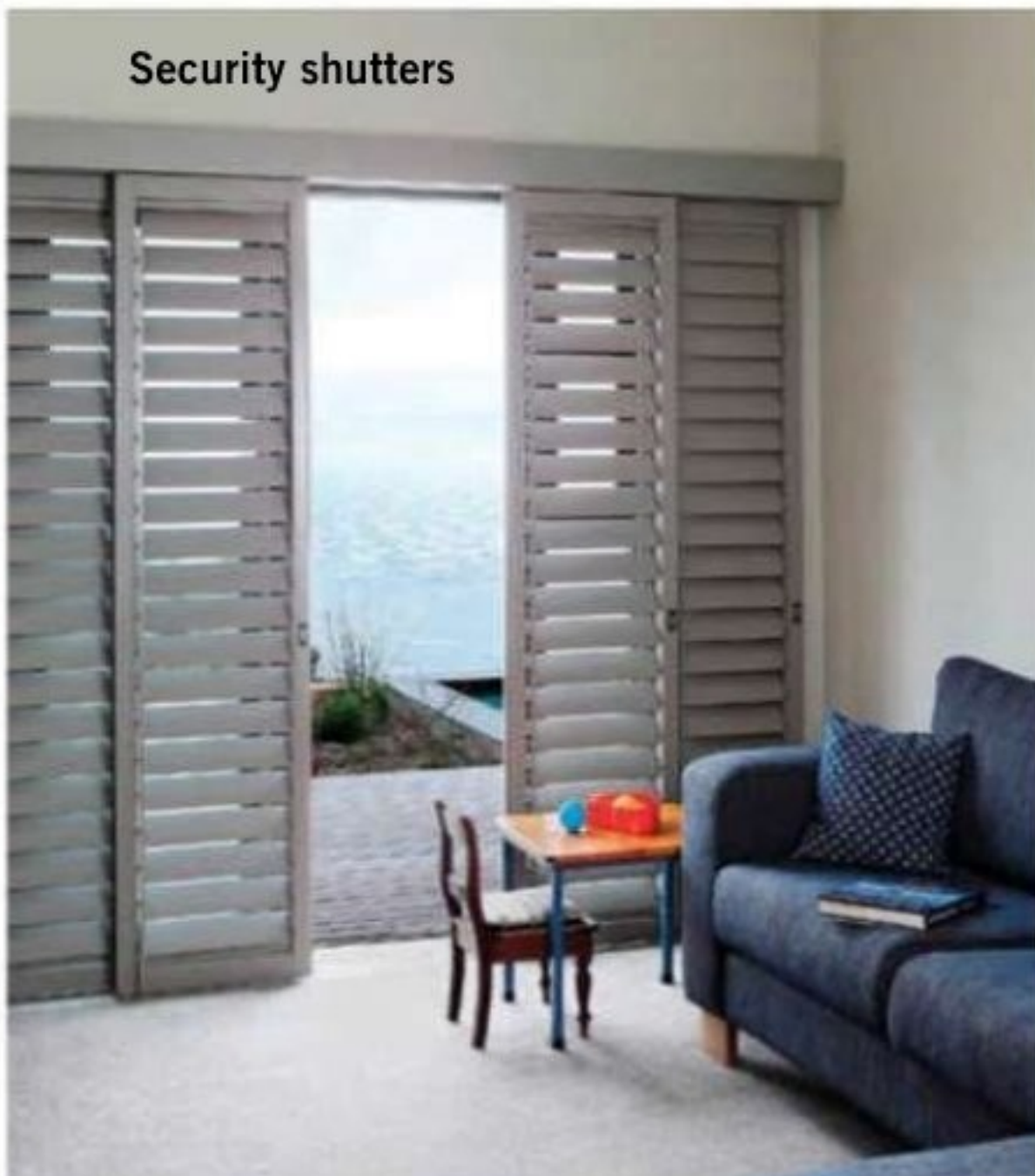
Kundra Bowley designed and had these security doors made for her Tamboerskloof home more than a decade ago. "I knew what I wanted and had to draw rough sketches for the manufacturer – there was no Pinterest in those days!" she says with a chuckle. Kundra was keen to incorporate a wooden element in the design to prevent the bars from looking too cold and she wanted them to fold and stack, as the rooms in her home are quite small. The solution: thick meranti doors with wrought-iron bars running down the middle and two strong latches on the inside.

Work with layers

- It's ideal to have layers of various types of security, including an alarm system, dogs and barriers on doors and windows.
- If you have created a safe zone in your house, ensure that at least one window is secured with burglar-proofing that can open up as an escape route in an emergency.



Security shutters



Security shutters

Adjustable, aluminium louvre shutters provide the classic elegance and privacy of wooden shutters but with the additional benefit of security. The shutters (from about R4 000/m²) require no maintenance, many of them now come without tilt bars (you simply tilt one louvre that's attached to all the others by an internal gear system), and they're available in a variety of colours.

[KEEP IN MIND...]

- Shutters don't have to be limited to doors and windows – they also work well between rooms. The bi-fold version, for example, stacks away to the side and can be used in front of sliding doors.
- Only aluminium shutters serve as security; wooden ones are used for decorative purposes only.
- Ask about the light seepage of the shutters if you want to use them in a bedroom or multi-media space.

When is your home most vulnerable?

- When doors and windows are left open and alarms are deactivated, especially between 5:00 and 9:00 in the morning and again in the evening when you're at home.

Did you know?

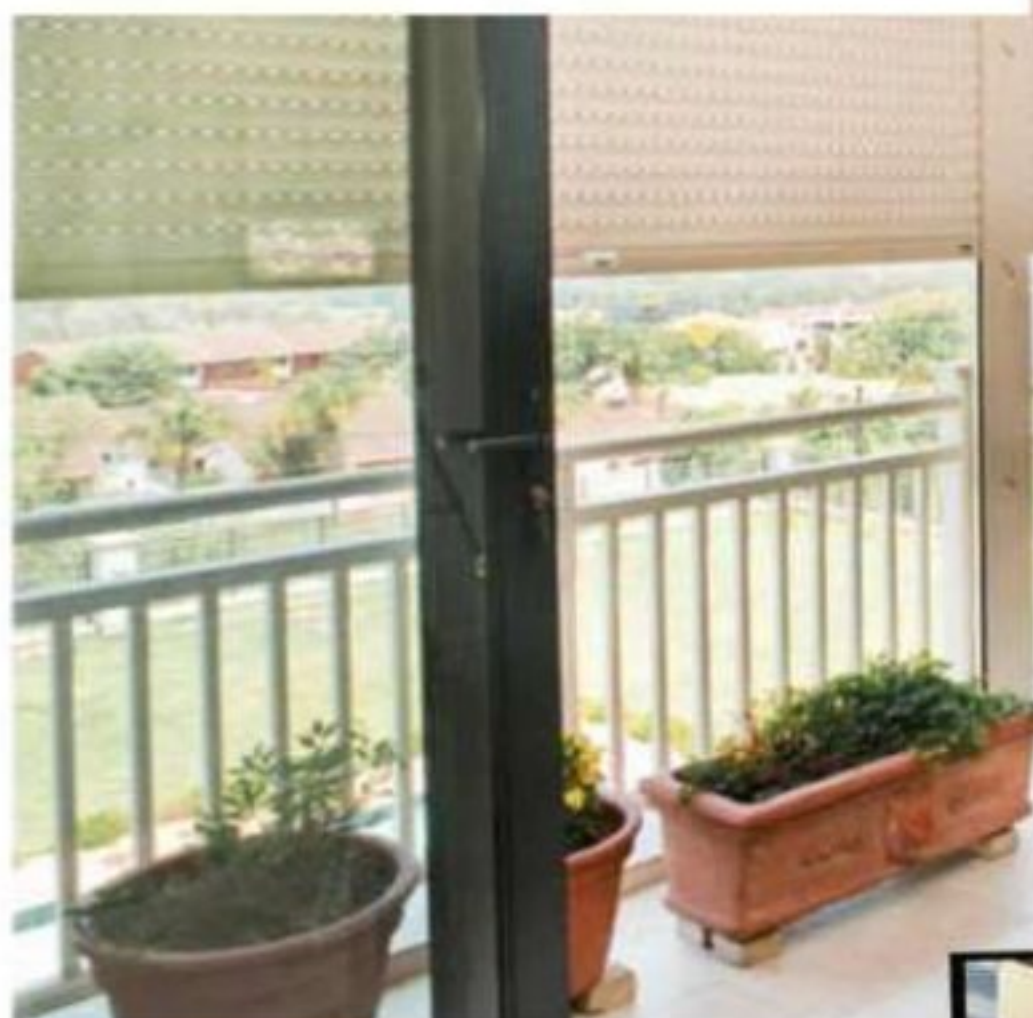
You can have a layer of security film (about R750/m², including installation) applied to the glass doors and windows of your home. It's similar to anti-smash-and-grab material, only thicker and stronger, and it boasts UV protection. Find a nearby supplier online.

Transparent bars

Polycarbonate bars (roughly R1 230 for a 950 x 950mm window, including installation) are popular for their transparency but they've got a bad reputation for being easy to break through. They're ideal for use in low-risk areas such as hard-to-reach windows, or to keep animals such as monkeys at bay if you live on an estate.

[KEEP IN MIND...]

- While they can withstand a lot of pressure (a brick or hammer will not easily penetrate the bar) and their flexibility makes it more difficult to detach them from the frame using a crowbar, they may not hold up well against prolonged attack, as is true for many other security measures.
- Videos of inferior bars being burned with a simple blowtorch are making the rounds on social media; they are very brittle and not recommended. Good polycarbonate bars may come custom-fitted in an aluminium frame instead of being added directly to the window's frame. If the bars don't come attached to a frame and need to be added to your existing window, ensure that the price is approximate to the one that we've listed (not considerably lower) and that the bars aren't flimsy.
- You can have wires installed along the length of the bars which can then be hooked up to your alarm system.



Roller shutters

This steel or aluminium shutter (a 1 000 x 2 200mm doorway roller shutter costs about R16 500, including installation) rolls down and locks when necessary and rolls up (via a wall-mounted panel or remote control) into a shutter box when not in use.

[KEEP IN MIND...]

- The shutter box can be concealed in a wall or ceiling cavity – this should be decided on before installation.
- Various motor options are available, including super-fast motors, manual override or battery back-up in case of a power failure, solar-powered motors, and obstacle sensors.
- Roller shutters are ideal for use on doors and windows in permanent or holiday homes that remain unoccupied for long periods.
- They also work well inside your home; you can use them to separate different spaces. For example, you could separate the bedrooms from the rest of the house when you go to sleep. Roller shutters are less unsightly than regular security gates in the middle of your passage.

CONTRIBUTING EXPERTS AND STOCKISTS

Andre Holland of Shutterway
(shutterway.co.za)

Daniel Enticott of Glow Innovations
(glowinn.co.za)

Lindy Barry of Trellidor (trellidor.co.za)

Karina Palmer of American Shutters
(americanshutters.co.za)

Leon von Metzinger of Classic Metals
(classicmetals.co.za)

Michelle Reitz of Plantation Shutters
(plantation.co.za)

Darryl Le Roux of Clearview
(clearviewss.co.za)

Roller shutters



Mesh screens

These industrial-strength stainless steel mesh screens (R33 636 for a bi-fold option on a 2 500 x 1 900 mm window, including installation) come in an aluminium frame and each one is made to fit a particular opening – from sashed or hinged windows to sliding doors. They're expensive but this is the closest you'll get to a security barrier that's almost invisible.

[KEEP IN MIND...]

- The screens can be kept locked (using a key) while windows and doors are left open. They look very much like those screen doors that keep insects out, but these are exponentially stronger.
- Some screens filter out UV rays; check with the manufacturer.
- If you don't have the budget to have screens installed on all your doors and windows, consider using them only in selected high-risk zones or in areas where you want permanent security without compromising your view. 🏠



renovation

OUT IN THE **open**

By Carissa Govender • Styling Shelly Bergh
Photographs Francois Oberholster

With clever planning, this cramped bathroom was transformed into a spacious and stylish wet room.



THE WINDOWS

The blinds were removed and the windows frosted, allowing more natural light in which makes the bathroom appear bigger.

THE SHOWER

Thanks to a gentle slope leading to the outlet and plenty of surrounding space, the bathroom only gets wet where the shower is located.

Who lives here?

Inez de Vries

WHERE Kuils River,
Cape Town

SIZE 6m²

I'm so proud of this project because it turned out perfectly, despite all the problems I faced. – Inez

*Do you like the
cement look?*

In the next issue of *Home*
we put the spotlight on
cement finishes.

SIMPLE FINISHES

Inez stuck to simple finishes
and softened the clean
lines and sleek look of the
concrete and wood
with earthy décor fixtures
such as this wicker-frame
mirror and sumptuous
crystal chandelier.

Kiaat wood inlays
on the floor (see
opposite) were
made from old
railway sleepers by
Reclaimed Woods.
They also created
the custom-made
floating shelves. >>

home
FIX IT
WITH FLAIR



When, more than a decade ago, Inez de Vries heard that her sister's house in Kuils River was on the market, she knew that a little TLC would add a lot of value to this ugly duckling home. So she rose to the challenge and bought the house in 2008, full of ideas about how she could make the most of the space.

But it's been a slow process. "Each year, depending on my budget, I try to make some changes. I get so much joy out of creating my perfect home – and I browse through old issues of *Home* for hours," she says.

So far, she's added a patio and braai room, converted the garage into a guest bedroom en suite, renovated the main bedroom and installed new floors. Using natural products such as concrete and wood, Inez has created a timeless feel throughout the house.

Her latest transformation, which was completed this year, shows her true mettle. At only 6m², Inez described the bathroom as "always too cramped." It had a bath but that turned out to be a waste of space: "I probably used the tub twice a year," she says with a laugh.

The enclosed shower also irked her, so she had it removed along with the bath and rearranged the position of the toilet, basin and shower to maximise the space. Thanks to the new layout, Inez was able to realise her dream: an open-plan shower with a luxurious rain shower head.

A learning curve

The project took four weeks to complete, but it wasn't without its problems. Although Inez values word of mouth when appointing contractors, it turned out that even then you can still run into trouble. Two inexperienced plumbers and a wood supplier who didn't do the correct measurements set her back. However, Inez remained undeterred.

Previous renovations had taught her to question everything; when builders couldn't answer questions to her satisfaction, she moved on to more reliable contractors who were able to provide her with the finishes and services she wanted. "Decorating and optimising my home is a never-ending project. It's an ongoing process," she says. The bathroom was done and dusted on 14 February – "a wonderful Valentine's Day gift to myself!"

Renovator's notes

You can never ask too many questions, says Inez. And if you're not convinced by the answer, ask again!

Inez de Vries



[MAIN ALTERATIONS]

- The existing bathroom fittings and accessories were removed by the plumber; this included the bathtub, shower, toilet and basin.
- The position of the toilet, basin and shower were rearranged to maximise the small space.
- The space under the floor where the waste pipe would run was excavated and plumbing pipes were fitted.
- A wall was built to accommodate the cistern of the hanging toilet, then plastered.
- All remaining tiles were removed by Crete and Wall Creations to prepare the walls, which were then covered with stucco.

Q&A with Inez

What do you like most about your new bathroom? I love the freedom of movement – you aren't restricted by shower doors and steps.

What would your advice be to someone doing their first renovation? Start off with smaller projects around your house in order to see if your plumber or builder is in fact competent enough to take on a bigger project.

What research should be done beforehand? Know your materials, from the pipes the plumber will use to the screed finish you want – not all screeds are suitable in wet areas and some should be sealed. When it comes to wood, make sure it can cope with exposure to water. The wood used for floor inlays must be at least 50mm thick to prevent warping.

How do you effectively manage a project from start to finish without a contractor?

Convene a meeting with all contractors before the project begins so each person knows who is responsible for what. Draft pictures and drawings with accurate measurements. Be aware that sometimes you'll receive an answer that's convenient for the tradesman and not you; consult with someone else in the industry to confirm that you aren't being misled.

How do you find the best products?

I search online and compare prices; before I buy, I always check for reviews on a product.

Any other tips? Make sure the contractors do no damage to the rest of your house while on the job. I bought cheap blankets to cover the floors throughout.

Remember that not all chandeliers are suitable for use in a bathroom. The light fittings must be sealed to prevent short circuits due to damp.

A cupboard from the patio was moved to the bathroom for storage space.

THE FLOOR

The stucco floor doesn't appear wet after a shower, thanks to its colour; the process of installing the stucco took a week because of the various layers required. Cleaning is a breeze: you don't have to scrub grouting and there are no difficult-to-clean corners which a shower door usually presents.

Total cost: R43 526

Basin	799
Basin mixer	799
Shower mixer	699
Shower arm	219
Bottle trap	599
Angle valve	79 X 2
Toilet	3 499
Pop up	159
Shower rose	699
Shower waste	549
Towel rail, toilet roll holder and hand-towel ring	1 700
Building the wall (labour and material incl.)	2 100
Plumbing (labour and material)	3 780
Wood	9 517
Chandelier	950
Stucco (labour & material)	17 300

Fine finishes

Walls and floors Stucco by Crete and Wall Creations (021 556 6595, flooringcapetown.co.za)

Plumbing ITD Zola (200mm) shower head, Amina basin, Tivoli taps and Diplomat toilet with Geberit Cistern all from CTM (0800 010 810, ctm.co.za)

Lighting Crystal chandelier from Progress Lighting (021 945 3636, progresslighting.co.za)

Wood Sleeper wood on shelf and floor from Reclaimed Woods (021 914 1532, sleeperwood.co.za)

Accessories Laundry bin from @home (0860 576 576, home.co.za); circular mirror from MRP Home (0800 212 535, mrphome.com); white plant pot from Stodels Garden Centre (021 852 7400); towel rail, toilet roll holder and hand-towel ring from the Butler Range at Continental Bathrooms (021 557 8888, continentalplumbing.co.za)

Save time and money this winter

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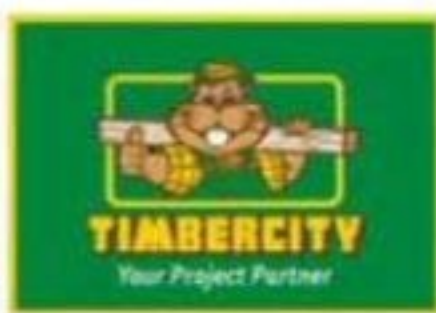
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COMPETITION

home FIX IT WITH FLAIR



{2016 winners}



Andrew and Victoria Zekveld,
Pietermaritzburg

{Runners-up}



Stanley Cornelius and Candice
Theunissen, Wolseley

{Runners-up}



Dewald and Erika van Zyl,
Prince Albert

{Runners-up}



Mark and Cheryl Kelman,
Pietermaritzburg

{Runners-up}



Lisa and Sias Reynolds,
Beaufort West

ENTER NOW FOR 2017 – it's your last chance

If you have a passion for renovation or you're looking for an opportunity to flex your DIY muscles, our 2017 *Fix it with Flair* competition is the perfect platform! Simply send us pics of your project and you could take home your share of R73 000 worth of fantastic vouchers.

For the 9th year running, our annual *Fix it with Flair* competition is set to showcase South Africa's most innovative homemakers – those who aren't afraid of getting their hands dirty and love to save a bit of cash in the process!

And remember: you can enter anything from a complete home makeover to a single-room project.

HOW TO ENTER

Visit fixit.tuis.co.za and enter online; the new and improved microsite makes it even easier to share your project with us. If you have any queries, email roxanne.cloete@media24.com or call 021 408 3815. *Please remember to upload high-resolution images (at least 2MB).*

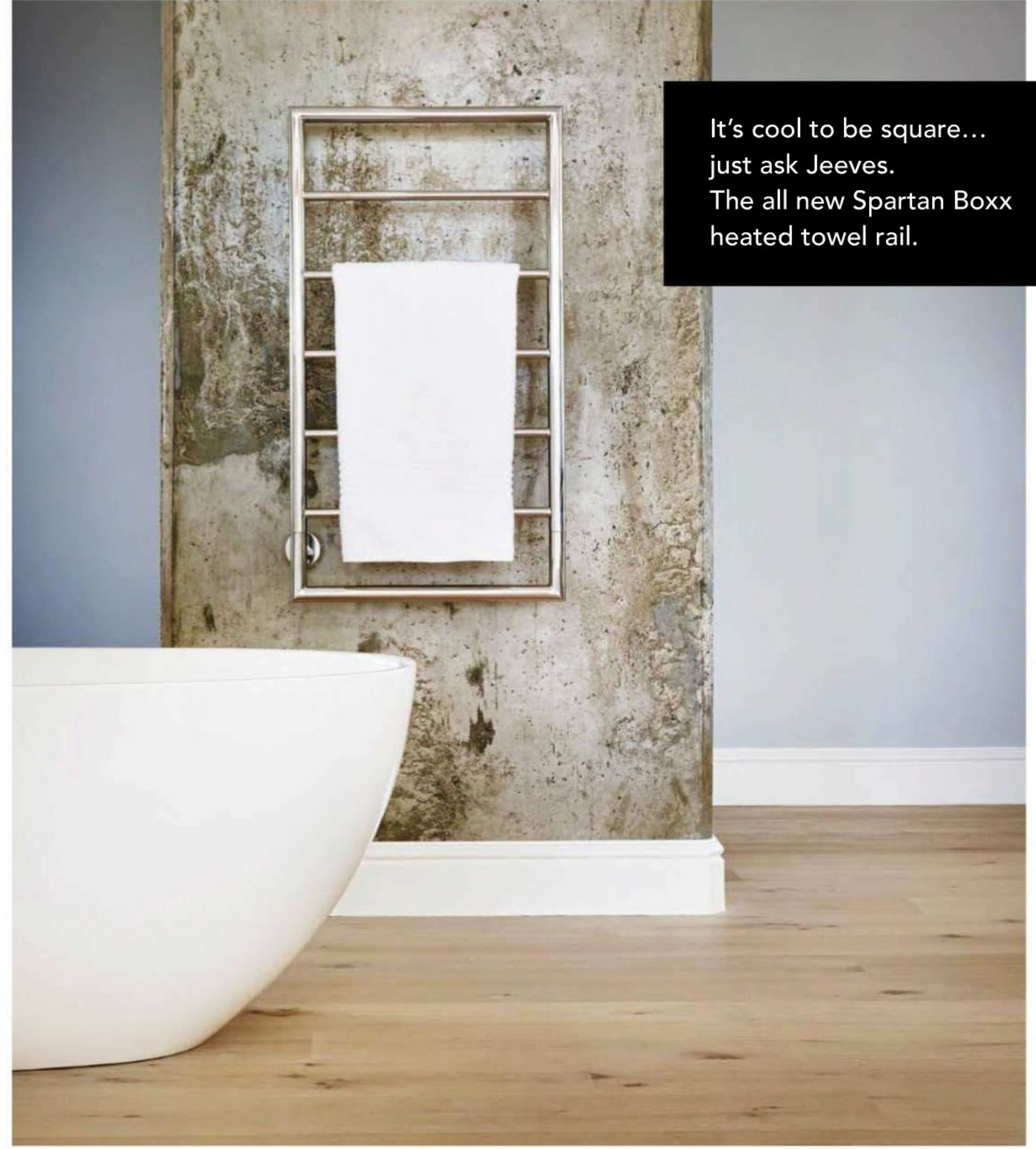
ENTRIES CLOSE 30 June 2017

IMPORTANT Remember the following:

- You need to briefly explain what your project entailed and submit a budget breakdown.
- All projects entered should have been completed within the past three years and **at least 50% of the work must have been done by the homeowner – this is a competition for people who don't mind getting their hands dirty!**

The competition is sponsored by BUCO (formerly Pennypinchers) and Timbercity. The **winners will receive a R35 000 voucher** and there are plenty of other vouchers up for grabs for entries that make it into the Top 10 and Top 5.

*You could
be our next
winner!*



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makeover

Who lives here?

Marietjie and Hardy
Madsen-Leibold with their
son Gerard (15)
and daughters
Ansophi (18) and
Marike (21)

Throw from MRP Home

GO graphic

The Madsen-Leibold family tackled a paint project together, creating an impressive 'motherboard' focal wall for teen Gerard's room.

By Kim Arendse • Styling Shelly Bergh • Photographs Inge Prins

W

When Ansophí (18) moved out of her room in the family's Somerset West home to study mechanical engineering at Stellenbosch University earlier this year, her younger brother Gerard (15) was quick to call dibs on the space.

But it was still very much in Ansophí's style with a pretty focal wall featuring birds in a tree – a bit too feminine for Gerard, a grade 10 high school student and electronics and computer fanatic.

So Ansophí decided to help the family create a bold new focal wall featuring a graphic representation of a computer motherboard. After some online research, she created the drawing in Photoshop as well as a 3D design so everyone could see what the wall would eventually look like.

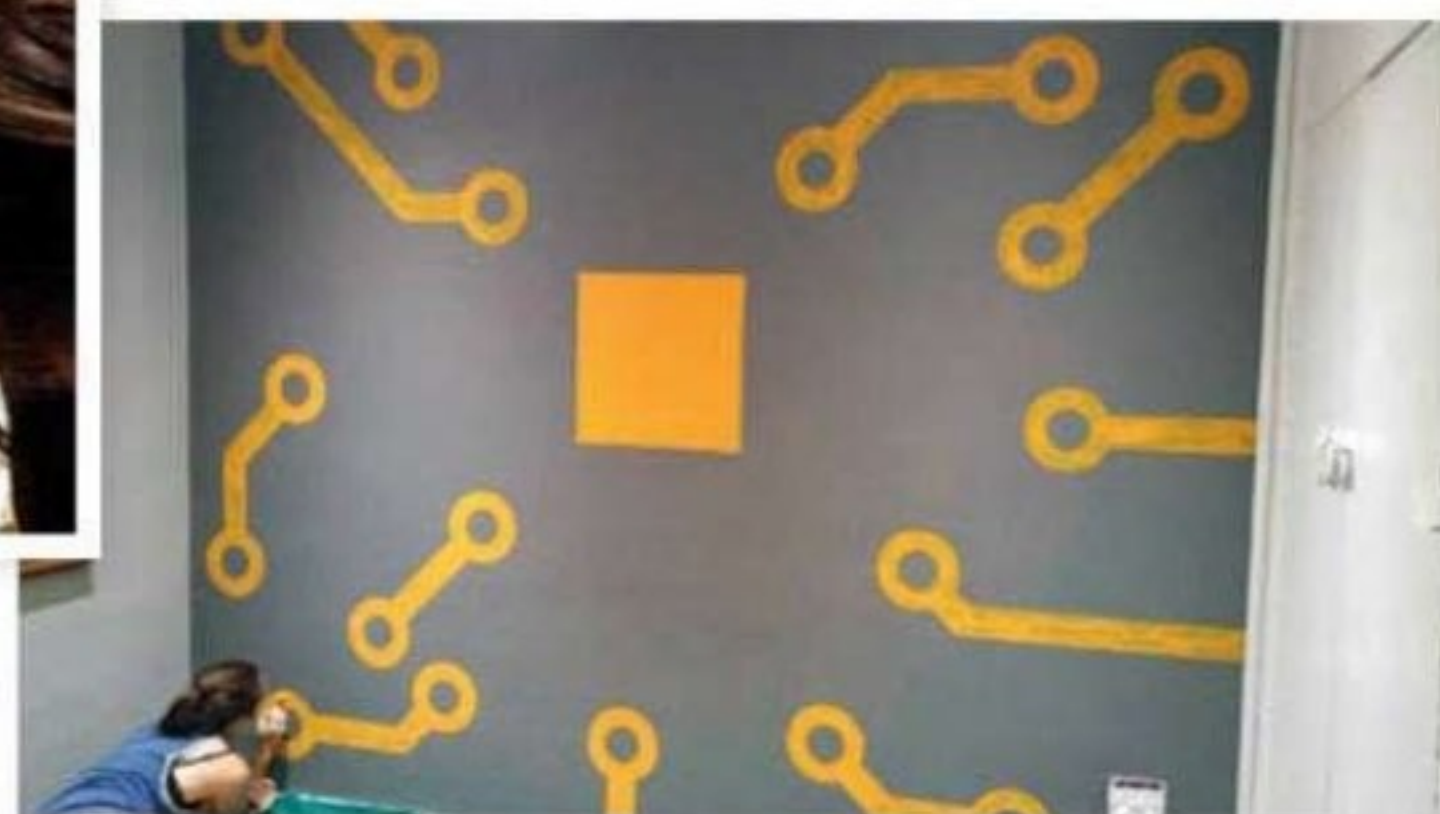
First, it was painted dark grey – a paint mix made especially for the project.

Gerard and his engineer dad Hardy then replicated the measurements of the drawing to scale on the wall. Once the drawing was done, everyone, including mom Marietjie, coloured in the lines of the drawing using a mix of orange and white paint and a variety of paintbrushes in different sizes. "Many hands make light work!" says Marietjie.

And Gerard is over the moon with his new space. 🏠



Ansophí, Gerard and dad Hardy plan the design.



The four days we spent working together were good for our family; we listened to music, sang and appreciated our time together.
– Marietjie

Bright idea!

The drawing extends onto the ceiling and the side walls, creating a 3D effect.

Total cost: R1 720

Paint	1 200
New paintbrushes (in addition to using lots of old ones)	120
New bedding	400

For more inspiring paint makeovers, step-by-step techniques and expert advice, get your copy of *Home Paint It* – it's on shelves now!



do it yourself



Shelly Bergh

SEE THE light!

We show you how to make your own
stylish cement pendants.

By Shelly Bergh • Photographs Francois Oberholster



QUICK PROJECT GUIDE

Hard labour 1/10

Skill level 2/10

Time needed 3 hours,
plus 48 hours drying time

Do it yourself for ±R145

(cement mix R40, lamp
socket R15, 2m electrical
cord R45/m)

You will need

SHOPPING LIST

- cement
- sand
- 2 x plastic bottles
(1 x 2L; 1 x 500ml)
- electrical cord
(we got ours at hoiploy.com)
- lamp sockets
- small globes
- screws
- non-stick cooking spray

TOOLS

- scissors
- craft knife
- drill with 3mm drill bit
- plastic gloves
- plastic bucket
- hacksaw
- screwdriver
- hammer
- sandpaper

Get started...



1 Cut the 2L bottle about a third from the base. **2** Screw the lids onto the bottles and drill pilot holes in the centre of them.

3 Spray the cut-off bottle with the non-stick cooking spray on the inside and the 500ml bottle on the outside. **4** Place the smaller bottle inside the bigger one and attach the lids with a screw.



5 Drill holes just below the edge of the bigger bottle all the way through to the smaller bottle, and insert screws as spacers to keep the bottles in place. **6** Make a cement mixture (two parts cement: one part sand) and add just enough water to create a dough-like consistency.

7 Let your mould balance on the off-cut piece of the big bottle and scoop the cement mixture into your mould. Shake the mould as you go to make sure the cement goes all the way to the bottom. Once you've filled the mould, shake it some more to get rid of any air bubbles. Let it stand to dry for 48 hours.



8 Remove the screws from the mould then use a craft knife to remove the outside bottle from the lamp. Carefully chip away some of the cement around the lid of the inside bottle then cut the lid off under the lip with a hacksaw. Now remove the inside bottle. Sand the edges of your pendant smooth.

INSTALLATION It's always best to get an electrician to install lights – the electrical wire must be attached to the lamp socket, threaded through the hole at the top of the pendant and then connected to the power point in your ceiling. 🏠





Deon de Goede

A wine rack

FOR THE CONNOISSEUR

Build this rack to store your wine collection according to vintage or estate – and then drink a toast to your handiwork.

By Deon de Goede • Photographs Francois Oberholster • Styling Marian van Wyk



Wine supplied by Tops at Spar Brackenfell

Project notes

- Get your local timber merchant to cut all the wood to size – this will simplify your task immensely.
- Remember to drill pilot holes.

You will need

SHOPPING LIST

- one sheet of 18mm plywood, cut to:
two 1 500 x 300mm (sides)
two 464 x 300mm (base and top)
one 464 x 100mm (strut)
one 1 364 x 464mm (back)
three 650 x 260mm (shelves; see 'It's in the angle' below)
- 22 x 44 x 2 400mm planed pine (shelf edges)
- one packet 6mm x 40mm chipboard screws
- paint, varnish and/or wax

TOOLS

- cordless drill and 3mm bit
- jigsaw
- pencil
- tape measure
- multi-square
- scraper
- paintbrush
- wood filler
- 120-grit sandpaper

QUICK PROJECT GUIDE

Hard labour 5/10

Skill level 4/10

Time needed 1 to 2 hours

Do it yourself for less than
R500 (wood and screws
R450, paint excluded)

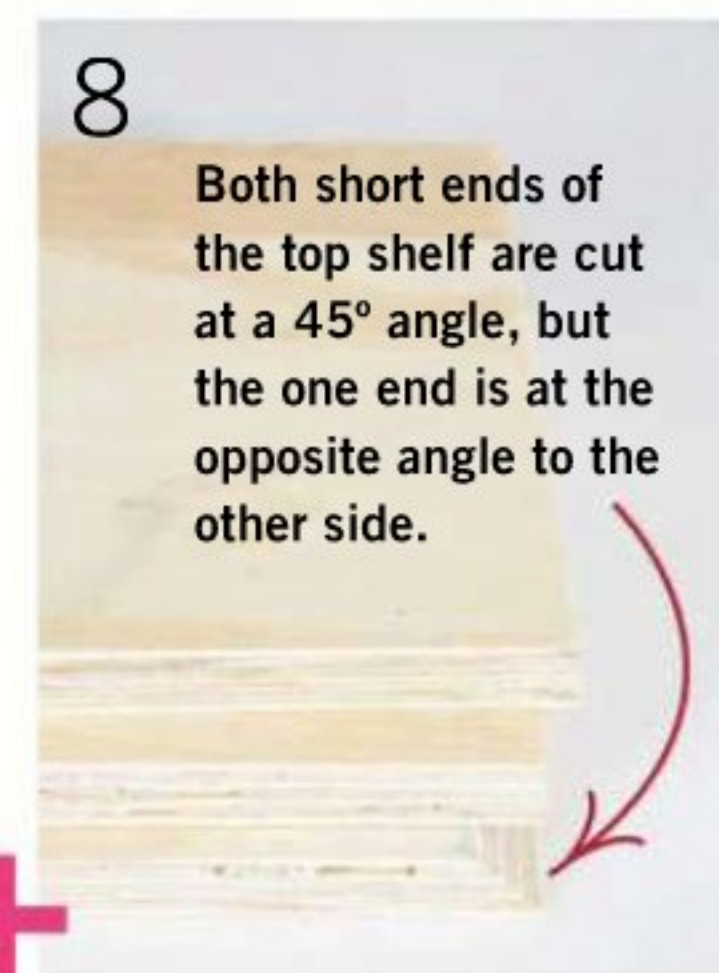
Get started...



Timber and
screws supplied
by Cape Boards



1–4 Measure and mark an 18mm-strip (the thickness of the base plank) on the two 1 500 x 300mm side planks, 100mm from the 'lowest' end. Drill two pilot holes between the two lines and screw the 464 x 300mm base piece between the two sides; screw the 464 x 100mm strut beneath the base.



5 Screw the remaining 464 x 300mm plank to the other end between the sides to form the top of the wine rack.
6 Place the 1 364 x 464mm piece for the back in position and screw in place.

It's in the angle **7 & 8** If your timber merchant hasn't already done so, cut one short end of all three 650 x 260mm shelves at a 45° angle; also cut the other short end of one of the shelves at 45°, but at an opposite angle to the other side. >>

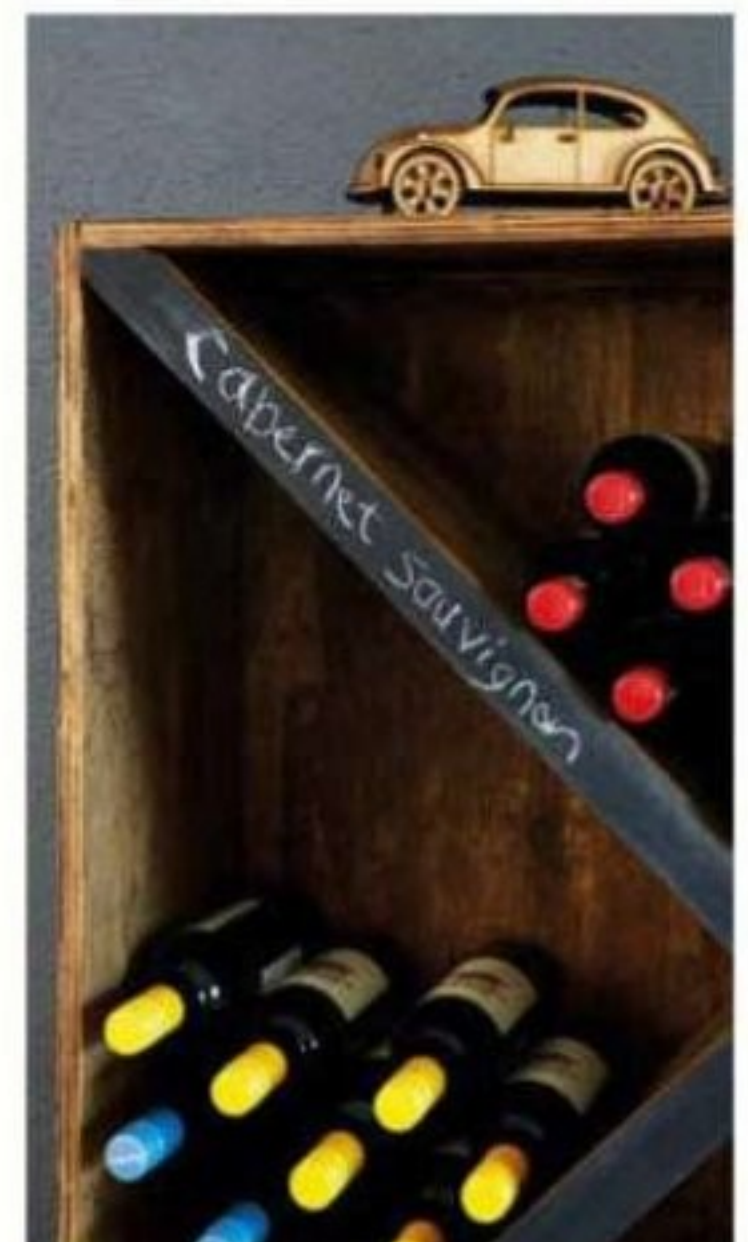
do it yourself



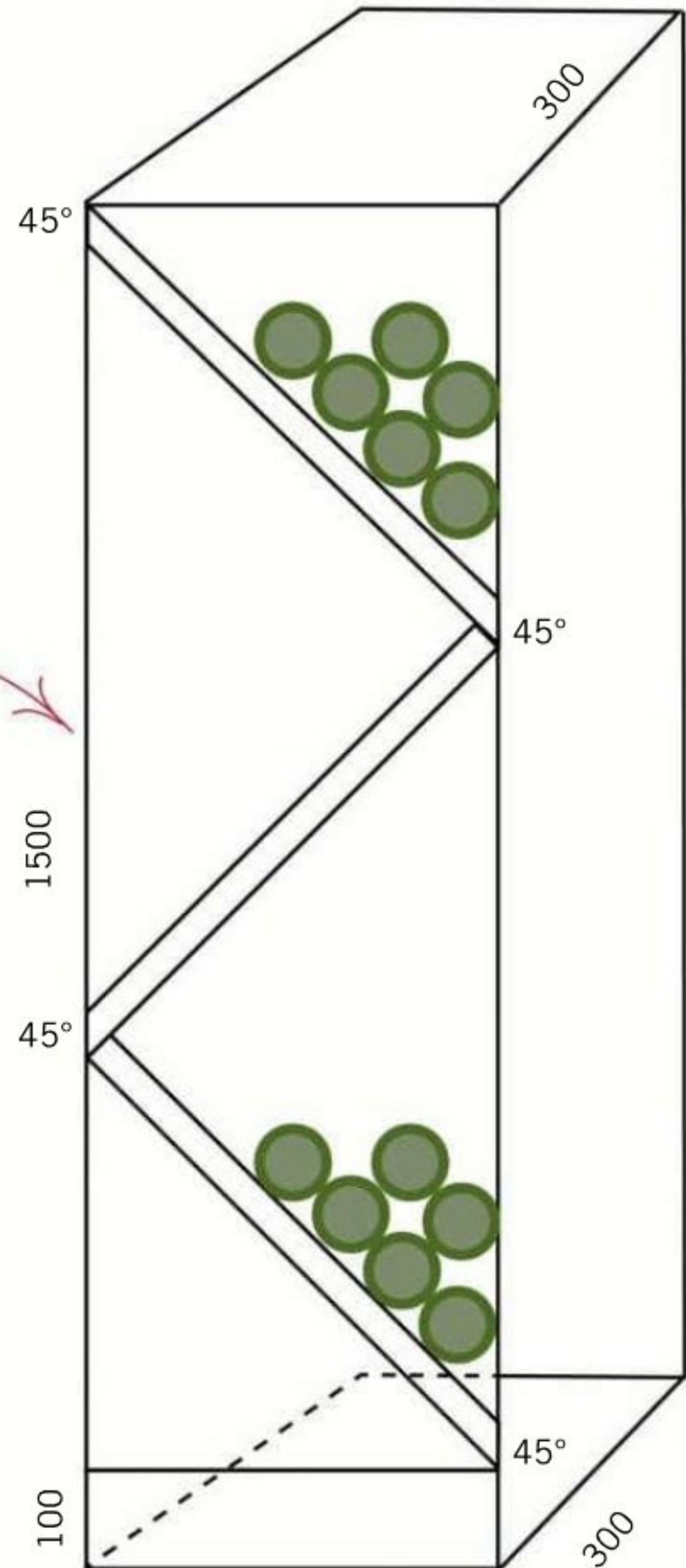
9 Place the wine rack on its back. Position the three shelves (see sketch) and screw in place. **10** Mark and cut the 22 x 44mm plank in lengths that fit exactly over the front of the shelves. Screw these edgings in place as a finishing touch.



11 Fill all the screw holes with wood filler and allow to dry thoroughly. Sand the entire wine rack to a smooth finish and varnish or paint it in the colour of your choice.



12-14 We painted the shelf edges with blackboard paint so we could write the name and vintage of the wine on each one. The rest of the rack was coated with Annie Sloan Dark Wax. 🏠



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Ask the experts

Want to know how to declutter an open-plan living area or which plants are waterwise? You ask – we find the answers.

Compiled by Kim Arendse

Décor dilemma

THE CHALLENGE

Teresa Tiedje asks via Facebook We moved into our house a couple of months ago and we really need help with decorating our open-plan living and dining room. It's a small space and it looks cluttered. Our entrance hall is at the back of the living room and this prevents us from placing any furniture against the wall to create extra space. We haven't bought any furniture yet, so we're using old chairs as well as a patio set. We'd like to paint and we're keen on browns and a natural stone look. Any advice?



Before



THE SOLUTION



→ **Stylist and photographer Margaux Tait of mylifestyled.co.za offers the following advice**

We all struggle with clutter from time to time and the biggest mistake people make is to use furniture that's too big for the space or too many pieces that end up compromising the flow. I have a few

trusted ways of sorting out a cluttered space in no time...

1 THE PALETTE Opt for light stone hues such as Salisbury Stones 5 or Natural Hessian from Dulux's warm neutrals range. A light grey, such as Dulux Dusted Moss 3, would also look great in your space. Paint all the walls to create a uniform look between the two areas; this will blend the space visually and give it a welcoming, light and airy feel. If you like, you can introduce a pop of bold colour like cobalt blue or a metallic touch with a bit of copper; both will work well with light stone and grey.

A light colour palette works best with different textures that create depth and interest, so bear that in mind when shopping for items to feather your nest. Also use a glossy paint on certain furniture pieces or the ceiling to optimise the reflection of light and add another layer of interest.

2 FURNITURE PLACEMENT Did you know that if you pull your furniture away from the wall, you create the illusion of greater space? Even a few inches will do the trick. Bear in mind that wooden furniture pieces also introduce colour; if you have too many different types in the same space, it can look cluttered. Rather, paint a few items or keep to two types of wood at most; I suggest light wood for this space due to its small size.

Instead of using lots of different chairs and sofas, consider a smaller L-shaped corner couch in front of the fireplace with ottomans as additional seating. At the dining table, you could use benches with chairs at the head and end to make the most of the space.

Large colourful rugs in both areas will brighten up the look; they must be big enough to fit under a grouping of furniture pieces to anchor the setting.



3 WALL ART Instead of lots of small artworks, display a few select pieces in a larger format to add depth. Displaying art above eye level helps create the illusion of height.

4 MULTIPURPOSE Use less furniture and make it work harder by opting for multipurpose designs. Consider a coffee table that has magazine storage built in or an ottoman that can also store throws or scatters, for example.

5 FOCUS! Textured wallpaper in a similar colour to the walls will create an interesting focal point behind the dining room table.

6 LOOK UP Use interesting, elongated shelving and tall plants to further create the illusion of height. A long pendant suspended from the ceiling is also a good idea. Then create layered lighting by pairing pendants with standing lamps and table lamps to create a soft, romantic ambience.

7 WINDOWS Not having a curtain in front of the window will declutter the space instantly. If the room gets lots of sunlight and becomes too hot in summer, use block-out blinds that you can roll down when necessary. >>

Quick questions

Q: I'm interested in the splashback on [page 78](#) of your March 2017 issue; where was it bought and what colour is it? – Nickey Botes, Swellendam

A: The glass splashback was made by Cohesion Interiors (cohesioninteriors.co.za) in the colour Sky Grey.



Q: Where did the homeowner buy the haberdashery cabinet on [page 23](#) of your August 2016 issue? – Carol Kayseri, Johannesburg

A: Homeowner Anisa du Plessis says it's an antique she bought more than 10 years ago from a shop that no longer exists. Look online at olx.co.za and gumtree.co.za or try Vamp (vampfurniture.blogspot.com). You could also have it designed and made by a carpenter.



Q: We're repainting and I love the colour of Nikki Booth's home in your May 2014 issue; what is it called? – Anneri Buitendach, Bloemfontein

A: The exterior was painted with Midas Earthcote Sand Paint in the colour Lions Head.



I'm looking for knives and forks like those on [page 17](#) of your May 2016 issue; where can I find them?

– Santa Lundberg, Ficksburg

A: The vintage cutlery was on loan from Memories, a vintage shop in Durbanville that has subsequently closed. You might find similar in second-hand shops but if it's just the colour of the handles you like, try @home (home.co.za), MRP Home (mrphome.com) or Checkers (checkers.co.za).



Looking for a non-slip tile...

Rhonda Cooper asks via Facebook We want to fix up our patio floor and we're looking for an affordable, non-slip tile in a neutral colour; what do you recommend?



→ **Katekani Baloyi, showroom manager at Italtile, replies** Try the Millennia range for a Spanish tile with a textured earthy feel that's designed for use indoors and out – even around the pool! This slip-resistant tile (from R249/m²) is glazed porcelain (10mm thick; 600 x 600mm) and it's available in beige (pictured) and gris (a pattern of lighter and darker shades of grey). >>



Weekend project

Materials

- 44mm x 22mm planed pine, cut to:
 - four 400mm pieces (with an 8mm hole drilled in the middle of each)
 - one 390mm piece
 - one 345mm piece
- three 1m-long nylon or leather straps
- Alcolin Cold Glue
- Alcolin Woodfiller
- two 6mm x 50mm bolts and nuts
- eight 6mm x 40mm chipboard screws



1 Glue and screw the 390mm piece at right angles to the ends of the two 400mm pieces. Repeat with the 345mm piece and the other two 400mm pieces. **2** Fill in the screw holes with Alcolin Woodfiller.



3 Position the smaller structure inside the larger one and secure with a nut and bolt on both sides.



4 Sand the wood to a smooth finish. Wrap the nylon straps once around the top struts of each structure and staple them down securely on the inside.

ALCOLIN PROMOTION

Keep your winter reading material close at hand with this nifty magazine rack.



How to be waterwise

Sally Knipe of Port Elizabeth writes
My plants aren't surviving this drought
and I'd like to replant my entire garden
with waterwise options this winter so it
will be all set for the warmer months to
follow; any advice?



Lavender



Helichrysum petiolare



Vygies and arctotis



Natal wild banana (*Strelitzia reginae*)



Spekboom



→ **Nick Stodel,**
MD of Stodels Garden
Centres, replies

Look out for plants with
these characteristics:

- **Small or needle-like leaves** The smaller

the surface of the

leaf, the less evaporation takes place.
Consider trees such as karee, acacia and
buffalo thorn.

- **Grey foliage** The colour reflects the sun's rays away from the plant, keeping it cooler and reducing water loss through the leaves. Options include lavender, artemesia, arctotis and the giant honey flower.

- **Hairy leaves** Hairs on the leaves help to slow down air movement past the stomata (pores used for gas exchange), thereby reducing water loss. Relevant plants include the silver tree, lamb's ear, beach salvia and helichrysum.

- **Succulent leaves** Water is stored in the fleshy leaves and can be used when the plant requires it. Consider crassula, aloe, echeveria, vygie and spekboom.

- **Waxy leaves** A waxy layer prevents moisture loss; think euonymus, kalanchoe and Indian hawthorn.

- **Lighter underside of the leaves** When the plant becomes stressed, it turns the lighter underside of the leaves upwards to reflect

the sun away from it. Plants include wild olive, gazania and indigenous buddleja.

- **Sturdy internal structure** Hard-stemmed plants better support leaves and prevent them from wilting; this way, any water the plant gets is retained, rather than dripping to the ground as it may with a plant that has soft, wilting leaves. Look for strelitzia, restio and agave.

- **Oil-rich** In areas that experience hot, dry summers, some plants have adapted by secreting oil that coats the leaves and protects them against water loss through evaporation. These include rosemary, lavender and sage.

CONTACT stodels.com >>



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Stash it or trash it?

A pretty pair

Rossella Canosa of Constantia Park, Pretoria writes I bought these vases at an auction in 1981; are they worth anything?



→ **Ian Conn of Ashbey's Galleries replies** This pair of German salt-glaze stoneware vases is an example of the highly decorative wares made in the

central German Westerwald region. This type of pottery has been produced in this area since the 1500s and was first discovered by Dutch potters who used old herring barrels to fuel their kilns. The salt glaze results when sodium combines with the quartz in the clay at

extremely high temperatures to produce a substance similar to glass. The cobalt blue decoration is one of the few coloured glazes that won't burn off at high temperatures.

CIRCA Late 19th or early 20th century

VALUE R1 500 – R2 000

One for the books

Michelle Klerck of Jeffreys Bay writes Is this little book of any value?



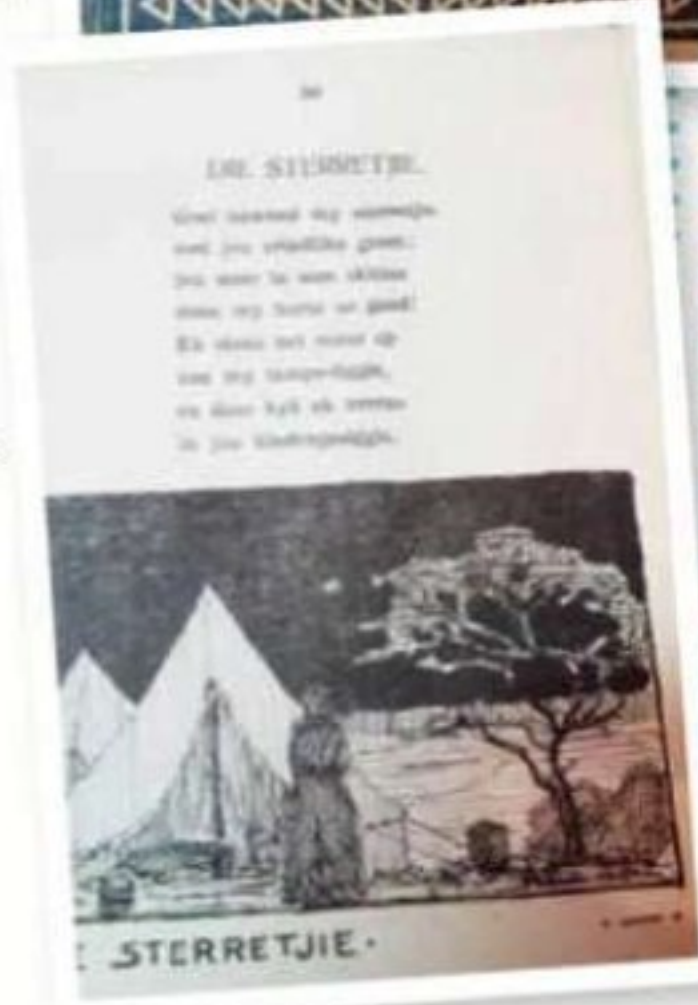
→ **Inge Roberts of Ashbey's Galleries replies** Your book *Kinderverse van Totius vir Skool en Huis* still has its dust cover, which is what book collectors want, but it does have some foxing

(an age-related process of deterioration that causes spots and browning on old paper documents; the name may derive from the fox-like reddish-brown colour of the stains, or the rust chemical ferric oxide which may be involved) and browning of the pages. On the plus side, it says that JH Pierneef did the illustrations.

CIRCA 1920

VALUE R100 – R200

CONTACT ashbeysgalleries.co.za



JJ's corner

What's in a name...

Vivienne Brent of Cape Town writes I came across this neglected rose bush; it's very thorny but the rose has the most beautiful aroma. I took two cuttings – one didn't

make it but the other is flourishing! Does it have a name?

→ **JJ replies**

Based on this image, I'd say it is the 'Rainbow Nation' rose. You could take it into your local nursery for confirmation.



Bring back the blooms!

Vanessa Reeve of Newclare, Johannesburg writes My Inca lilies were planted in a bed with a small conifer.

The conifer grew rather quickly and shaded the lilies, which didn't seem to like that, so I

transplanted them into sunnier spots in large, separate containers. The Incas are thriving and their leaves are glossy but they've stopped flowering! I miss the colourful blooms. I've fertilised with Culterra but there are still no flowers. Can you help?

→ **JJ replies** Incas are heavy feeders. I recommend using a product such as 8:1:5 or Flower Power. The Incas will flower better in the second year after transplanting. 🏠



CONTACT JJ van Rensburg is a horticulturist at Garden World in Johannesburg; visit gardenworld.co.za.



Listen to JJ's gardening tips and tricks on Derrick Gardner's show *Brekfies met Derrick* at 07:40 every Saturday on RSG.



8 out of 9

provinces were declared
disaster areas in 2016

Water scarcity is a reality. Find out where your
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advice



Animal antics

Cuddle up and get cosy...

Compiled by Beatrice Moore-Nöthnagel
(and her Beagle, Frodo)



Blanket effect

Matewis can't get any cosier!
– Lindi Kotzee, Pretoria



Décor diva

Boston Terrier Roxie poses
next to her favourite accessory.
– Anel van Zyl, Tyger Valley

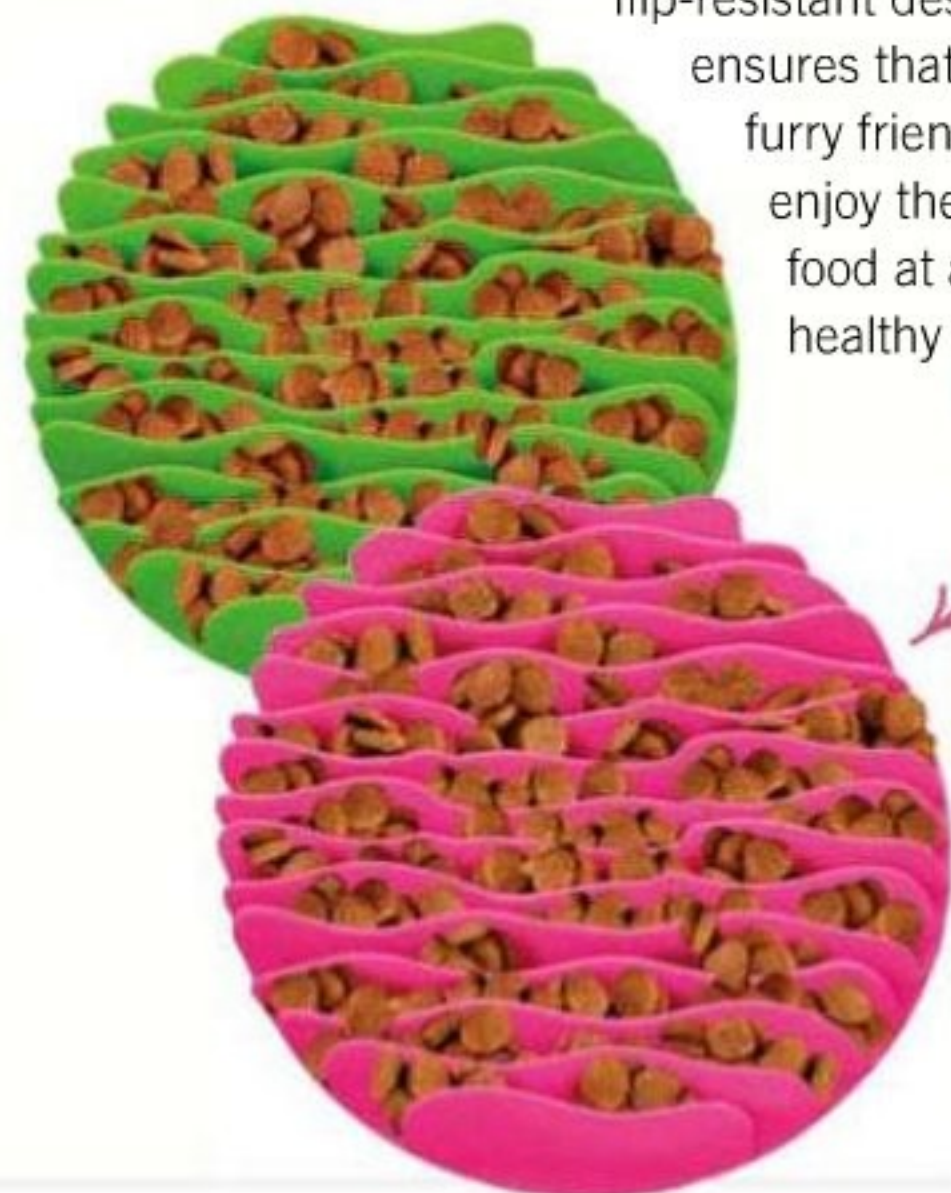


Just chill

Rescue dog Bobby is finally living the life of
Riley! – Colleen Pansegrouw, Johannesburg

New on the market

Does your dog approach mealtimes like a race?
The Fun Feeder Mat (R199, shingavet.co.za) will
help make meals last longer. Flexible food-safe
rubber creates a playful feeding experience
that pups love, while a unique non-slip and
flip-resistant design
ensures that your
furry friends
enjoy their
food at a
healthy pace.



Fur goodness sake!

Sisters Katja and Simba have been inseparable since birth.
– Annemie McCallaghan, Brandfort

Q&A

Fleas and the winter blues

Jenny Mason of Durban writes

Is it necessary to use flea products in the colder months? My dachshunds hardly scratch in winter, but we still go for regular walks in the park. Any advice?



→ **Dr Lauren Geraty of animal health company Merial South Africa replies** Contrary to popular belief, fleas don't go into hibernation in winter and some of the worst flea infestations can occur now when pet owners stop tick and flea control. Rather use

the lower winter temperatures, which reduce flea activity, to gain the advantage in the war on fleas. Keep the following in mind:

1 Winter may bring your pets some relief from itching and scratching, but this doesn't mean the fleas are gone. If you only start flea control again in spring, you'll be 3–4 months behind. Monthly year-round flea and tick prevention will prevent this eventuality.

2 Treatment every 12–14 weeks is not sufficient to keep fleas at bay throughout the life cycle. Adult fleas make up only 5% of the total flea population; the other 95% are eggs, flea larvae and pupae. Use a flea product recommended by your vet that kills fleas at all stages of the life cycle.

3 While it's important to keep your house clean by vacuuming regularly and spraying for fleas, this is not enough. You need to treat your pets directly every month otherwise fleas will feed on them, lay eggs and multiply.

TYPES OF PRODUCTS

Spot on treatments Easy-to-use topical treatments are administered with one-spot application. Once applied, the active ingredients are stored within the skin's oil glands and throughout the month will self-distribute onto the surface of the skin and hair to provide protection. This destroys adult fleas, larvae and eggs and kills any fleas or ticks that jump onto your pet on contact. Once the treatment has been applied and dried, your pets can have a swim or bath.

Chewable tablets If your dog is prone to constant licking, loves the outdoors or takes to the water regularly, a monthly chewable tablet is more convenient. For protection against both ticks and fleas, choose a product like Nexgard, which is a vegetable-based monthly oral chewable that's well tolerated and affordable. 🏠

CONTACT frontlineplus.co.za or nexgardfordogs.com



Snug as a bug in a rug

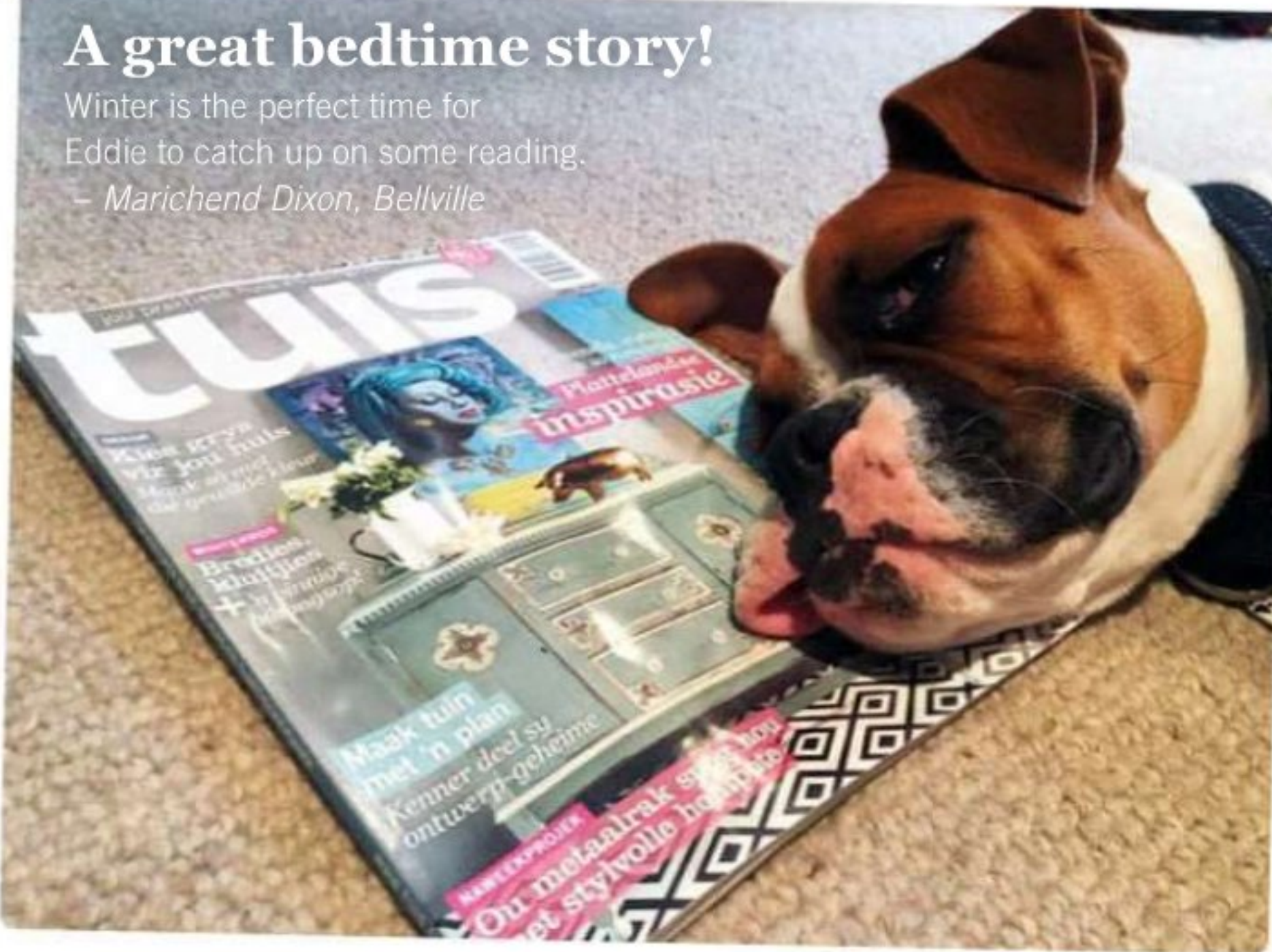
Chester loves the new rug in the hall.

– Bianca van Zyl, Wellington

A great bedtime story!

Winter is the perfect time for Eddie to catch up on some reading.

– Marichend Dixon, Bellville





WIN!

Each owner whose pet is featured here wins a medium K9 Castle and Winter Blankie for dogs or a medium Snuggle Rug for cats from Wagworld (wagworld.co.za). Available from leading vet and pet shops, the K9 Castle bed boasts outer bolsters made from strong, waterproof canvas and is filled with shredded recycled fabric, while the Snuggle Rug is perfect for indoor fur babies who tend to shed or like to snooze on the couch. Send your pics (at least 2MB each) and contact details to pets@homemag.co.za – you could be a winner too! See competition rules on [page 127](#).

Proudly South African!



crossword#104 Compiled by Gerda Engelbrecht

Examine (4,4)		Cardboard container		Alias (abbr)		Make a sweater		Passage		Casket "Sadly!"	Kniphofia (3-3,5)		
								Paddle					
		Bovine Broad		Thus		Rummage							
	Dried grass		Celebrity Negative answer					Craze					
				An animal (short) Premiere		Morning (abbr)					Celtic Cloud of dust, eg	Computer message	Anatomy (TV drama series)
Scowl				Father				Neither		Tosca, eg			
Fuss				Perform						Part of the calyx			
			Devil Gripes						Source of flower's pollen				
Type of grain	Heroic	Male swan				Perform 16th Gr letter							Indefinite article Tills
Prohibit					Increase Deep black		Tedious task		Buff				
Wise								Shady tree				Depart	Withdraw
Hello (inf)								Strolled					
		and fro		Indium (symbol)		Punc- tuation mark		Hectare (symbol) Accounts				Rhenium (symbol) Whine	
Celosia (5,4)										Limb			
					Sphere Cunning					Vest- ments	Album Definite article		Snoop
					Aroma Deciduous tree					High- priced			
							Sprite				Cold sea fog		
					Units of length					Moistened			



WIN! A Penguin Random House book hamper worth R1 500!

What could be better than snuggling up with a good book on a cold winter's night? This hamper has it all! There's the more serious *Making Money Through Buy-to-Let in South Africa* by Francois Janse van Rensburg, the thriller *Two Nights* by Kathy Reichs, *Mad* by Chloé Esposito, *The Music Shop* by Rachel Joyce, *The Last Son's Secret* by Rafel Nadal Farreras and kiddy classic *I Wonder Who?* by Kerryn Ponter. Enjoy!

The reader who sends in the first correctly completed crossword drawn will win a Penguin Random House book hamper worth R1 500. See our competition rules on [page 127](#).

Send the completed crossword, and your details, to **Home Crossword #104**, PO Box 1802, Cape Town, 8000, or scan in your completed crossword and email it to competition@homemag.co.za to reach us by 31 July 2017.

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HOW TO ENTER

- Online at homemag.co.za.
- SMS the keyword SEALY followed by your name, email and postal address to 33406 (each SMS costs R1.50); see our competition rules on [page 127](#).

CLOSING DATE

31 July 2017

NOTE The bed set consists of a base and a mattress.



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For more information, go to sealy.co.za or call 011 309 4000.

reader garden

AN INDIGENOUS oasis

Just because your garden is located on an island, it doesn't mean you're limited to planting palms. Take a look at this paradise...

By Marié Esterhuyse • Photographs Francois Oberholster
Sketch Hannes Stander

Who lives here?

Peter and Liz Reynolds

WHERE Leisure Isle, Knysna

SIZE 520m²



The curve of the pathway adds depth to the view and holds the promise of new discoveries.

In Peter and Liz Reynolds' garden on Leisure Isle in Knysna, beautiful indigenous plants take centre stage!

However, four years ago, before redesigning their garden with the help of Hannes Stander – a local landscape designer and co-owner of Ecozest – the property only featured a neglected lawn and a few trees, including a big old milkwood. Peter and Liz really wanted an indigenous garden that would make them feel as if they were living in the wild, despite being located in a built-up area. The garden also had to complement the contemporary architecture of the house and offer as much privacy as possible.

This part of the garden behind the house – with its pathways, river stones and succulents – forms a dry riverbed. It was created as a central axis to add depth to the garden and to draw your eye through the space.



North and south

Once the meticulous design process was complete, Hannes set about helping the couple to create their dream garden. He divided the garden into two sections.

On the south-facing side, where the main entrance is located and the high front façade looks out over the beautiful Knysna Heads, Hannes used dense plantings to add a sense of privacy: indigenous trees, shrubs and groundcovers that all occur naturally in the coastal dunes and are accustomed to the salty air, strong winds and sandy slopes. The design creates the feeling that the garden is located in a natural coastal forest, with Outeniqua yellowwood (*Afrocarpus* syn. *Podocarpus falcatus*), wax berry (*Morella cordifolia*) and *Helichrysum teretifolium*, among others.

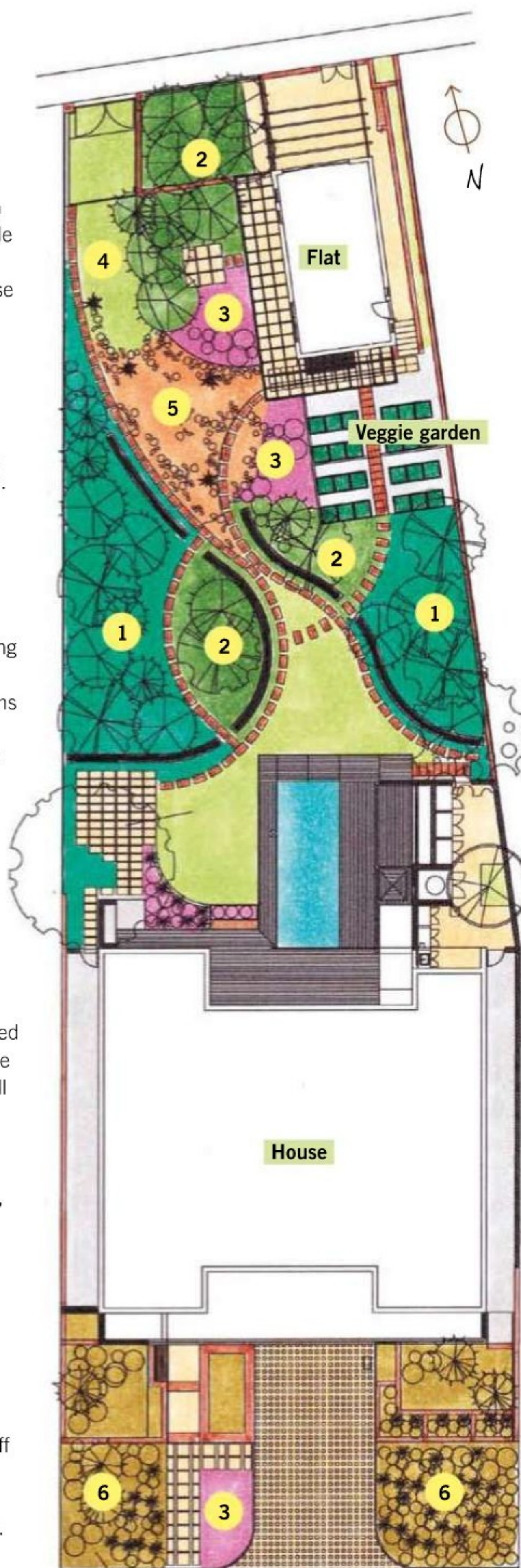
The major part of the garden is on the north-facing side of the house, which gets more sun and is sheltered from the prevailing wind. Here, Hannes created a vibrant and colourful indigenous garden which also forms the Reynolds' outdoor living area. Hannes divided this part of the garden into different zones, each with its own habitat.

"Different garden habitats within a larger whole give a garden character with interesting variety, thanks to the unique vegetation in each. Each habitat forms its own microclimate and attracts certain insects and birds that seek shelter and food in that particular area," explains Hannes.

One of the biggest zones is the dry riverbed that forms a central axis running through the garden. It is a dry landscape with both small pebbles and large rocks, waterwise plants such as succulents and winding pathways. Deeper in the garden, behind the packed stone wall that demarcates the dry riverbed, dense thickets of forest plants create a woodland feel.

About 98% of the garden is indigenous; although, Peter and Liz have also included a few exotic plants that they particularly like, such as Mexican blood trumpet (*Distictis buccinatoria*) and pomegranate (*Punica granatum*).

"We like the way Hannes has screened off the surrounding buildings, creating a lovely country feel," says Liz. "We love the wild areas which attract lots of birds and insects. And everyone likes the riverbed!" >>



Plant list

1 Woodland habitat

Diospyros whyteana
Grewia occidentalis
Maytenus acuminata
Nuxia floribunda
Plectranthus ciliatus
Plectranthus strigosus

2 Woodland edge habitat

Burchellia bubalina
Leonotis leonurus
Polygala myrtifolia
Tecomaria capensis 'Rocky Horror'

3 Fynbos habitat

Acmaenia alternifolia
Coleonema pulchellum
Elegia tectorum 'Fish Hoek'
Erica gracilis 'Dark Pink'
Leucospermum cordifolium
Pelargonium reniforme
Salvia africana-caerulea

4 Wetland habitat

Juncus spp.
Lobelia anceps
Melianthus major
Psoralea pinnata
Wachendorfia thyrsiflora

5 Dry riverbed

Aloe dumetorum
Aloe maculata
Bulbine latifolia
Crassula multicava
Oscularia deltoides
Portulacaria afra 'Prostrate'

6 Coastal shrub habitat

Agathosma apiculata
Carissa bispinosa
Helichrysum teretifolium
Morella cordifolia
Pterocelastrus tricuspidatus
Tarchonanthus camphoratus

* The plants listed above are only a selection from the landscaper's plant list.



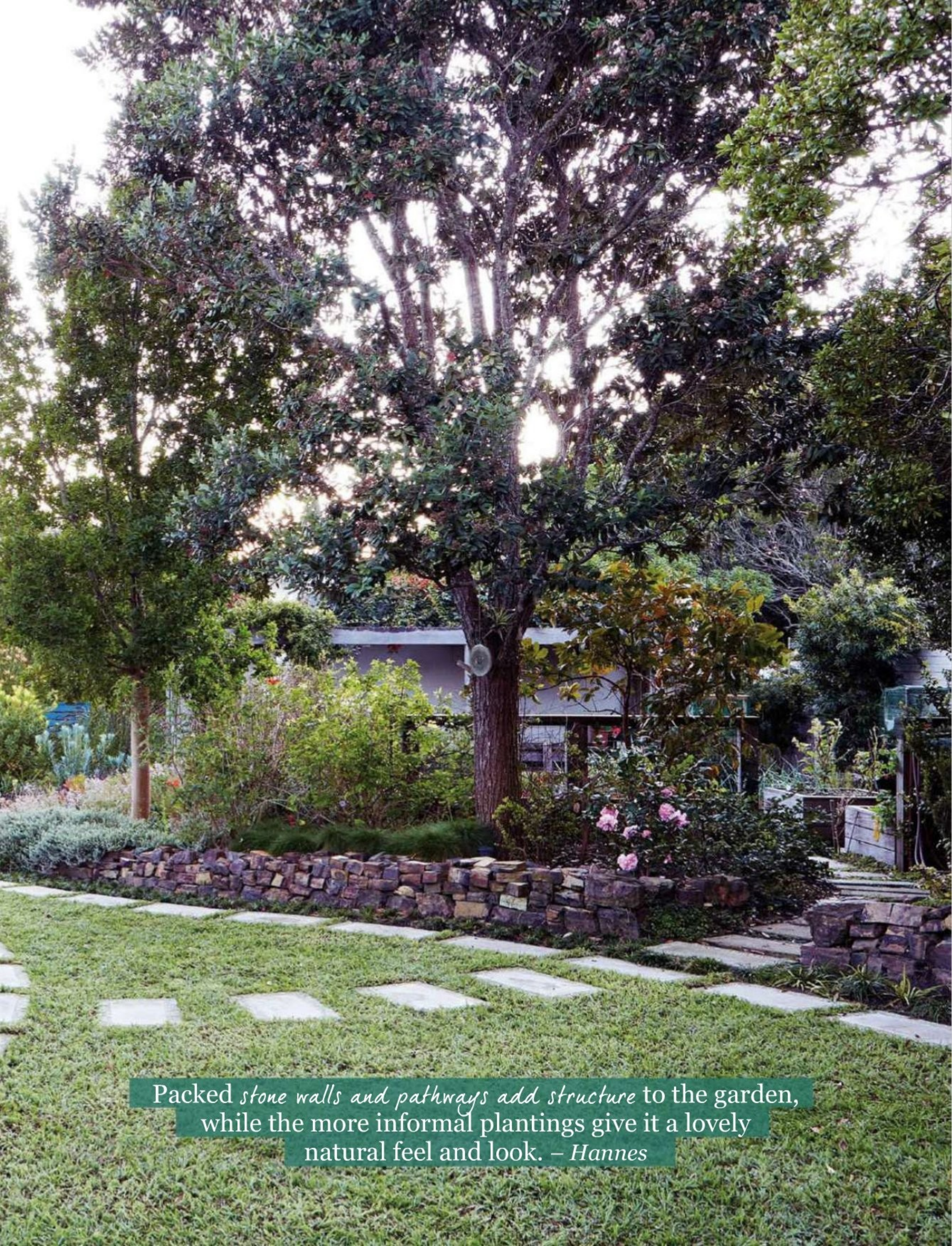
Hannes's gardening tips

- Grow interesting plants and those that need more attention alongside or near to stoeps and pathways where you can see them and easily take care of them. If a plant is out of sight, you'll soon forget it!
- Use hardy indigenous shrubs such as glossy leaf, cross-berry raisin, wild pomegranate, sage wood (*Buddleja salviifolia*) and Natal plum as natural screens and backdrops for the garden. These plants are an excellent choice for coastal gardens and those exposed to lots of wind.
- Consider the view. When you design your garden, emphasise the best bits by opening areas to create 'windows' out to the wider landscape. For example, don't block a lovely view with trees; plant them elsewhere on your property where you need privacy. Making use of the views from your garden helps to create a sense of spaciousness, especially in a built-up area.
- Plant groundcovers in-between shrubs to emphasise the natural look and to create a microclimate. They serve as a living mulch and will, over time, become part of the ecosystem. >>

The use of stones adds an interesting element to the garden and contrasts well with the vegetation. The property had no stones – all of them were brought in. Because Peter and Liz didn't want permanent structures in the garden, the rocks for the retaining walls were simply packed on top of each other; they also contribute to the natural aesthetic that the couple love so much. The stone walls don't have an obvious end point – rather, they disappear into the vegetation and around corners, creating a sense of never-ending spaciousness.

[INDIGENOUS STALWARTS] *in this island garden*

- Bladder-nut (*Diospyros whyteana*)
- Glossy leaf (*Rhamnus prinoides*)
- Cross-berry raisin (*Grewia occidentalis*)
- Natal plum (*Carissa macrocarpa*)
- Wild pomegranate (*Burchellia bubalina*)
- Gold carpet (*Helichrysum cymosum* subsp. *cymosum*)
- Common pincushion (*Leucospermum cordifolium*)
- Blood lily (*Scadoxus puniceus*)
- Wild jasmine (*Jasminum angulare*)
- False buchu (*Agathosma ovata*)



Packed *stone walls and pathways* add structure to the garden, while the more informal plantings give it a lovely natural feel and look. – Hannes



[HOW TO CREATE DIFFERENT GARDEN HABITATS]

It's easy to create a variety of habitats, no matter how small your garden. A habitat need not be bigger than a room in your home, and even the shade of one big tree is enough, says Hannes.

"Creating habitats with definite characteristics will allow you to use a wider variety of plants in your garden and will attract more wildlife. It also adds a specific feel to each part of the garden, which makes it interesting. In effect, what you're doing is gardening according to the sun and shade, the amount of water and nutrients needed in a certain section, and the feel you want to create in an area.

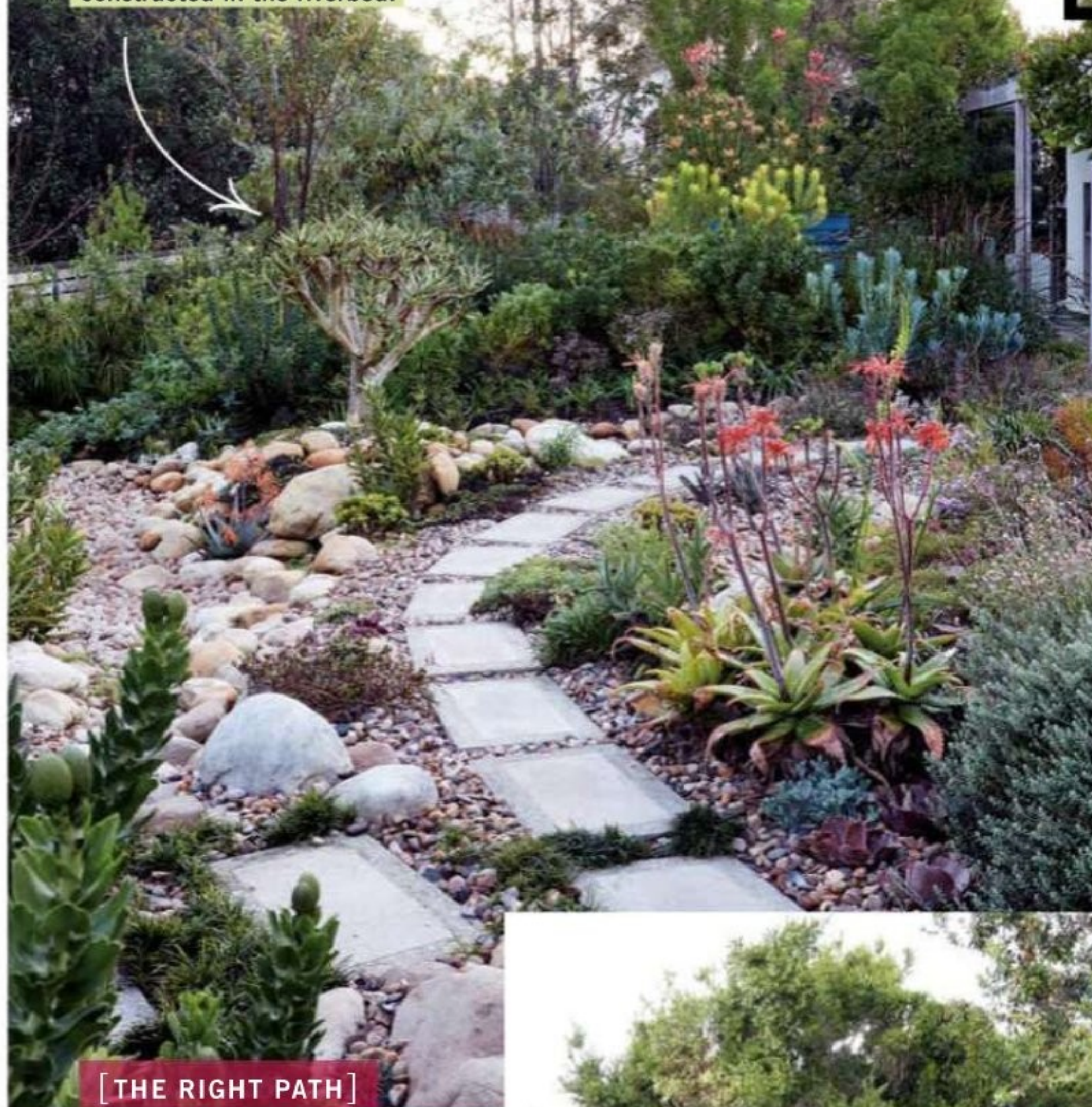
"In nature, vegetation plays a huge role in habitats. Likewise, in a garden the plant selection is very important in creating the right feel. I first divide the garden into zones, with each zone creating its own habitat. Then I choose plants that will help to create a specific habitat – these plants then form a symbiotic relationship; in other words, they grow for the benefit of each other," he explains. "These different habitats will allow you to use certain exotic plants in combination with indigenous plants. The trick is to use them correctly. Each plant must have a function as an accent plant, a filler plant, a groundcover or a screening plant, for example. They should also contribute to the life and character of the garden.

"Different habitats flow into each other without there necessarily being a visible dividing line. The garden, therefore, still has a sense of uniformity. It is only when you walk through it that you become aware of the subtle transition from one habitat to another. Structural elements such as pathways, walls, retaining walls, pergolas and hedges can still be used to separate one habitat from another and to add definition," adds Hannes.

The garden is environmentally friendly *in terms of water consumption, pesticide use and plant nutrition*. And, with the exception of the vegetable garden, it is 98% indigenous, so it attracts an abundance of wildlife. – Hannes



Because Knysna's damp climate is not its natural habitat, this quiver tree (*Aloe dichotoma*) needed a special spot in the garden: a mound with good drainage was specially constructed in the riverbed.



[THE RIGHT PATH]

Several pathways lead you through the garden, connecting the various garden rooms and habitats and providing access from the house to the outside area.

"Movement through a garden should be one of the main objectives of its design," says Hannes. "In any garden, a path will attract attention and you'll be curious to find out where it leads. I believe paths must be designed to allow you to get where you need to be in the easiest and most interesting way. In Peter and Liz's garden there are many footpaths that do exactly that!"

Hannes designed the pavers and made them himself from cement; he wanted them to be the exact width of a footpath in the veld. 🏠



Before



Before

Liz and Peter cultivate their favourite veggies and herbs in planter boxes and beds in the terraced kitchen garden (left) located behind an attractive screen made of wood and welded wire mesh.

CONTACT

Ecozest 082 776 7552, hannes@ecozest.co.za



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Light the way

Illuminating your garden is practical, but it also adds life to outdoor spaces at night and improves security. Five experts share their advice...

By Maryke Roberts

Photographs ER Lombard and supplied

Our experts



Neville Orsmond

of Create a Landscape in Pretoria is well known to *Home* readers; he has 12 years of experience in garden design.



Greg Segal

of Professional Illumination Design has been involved in lighting for more than 24 years and has a certificate in lighting engineering from the University of Cape Town.



Walter Cloete

is a horticulturist from Walgro in Strand. He has been designing gardens in the area for 33 years.



Wiidrich Dreyer

of Koi Creations in Pretoria has been involved in landscaping and garden design for 17 years.



Marcus Smit

of Marcus Smit Jacobs Architects in Somerset West has 20 years of experience in the industry. Although he is an architect, he's also passionate about gardening.

A photograph of a modern garden at dusk. In the center, a small rectangular pool is surrounded by a low stone wall. A tree stands to the right of the pool, illuminated from below, creating a warm glow. The garden is bordered by a high stone wall and a modern building with large windows. A paved path leads through the garden, and a small dog is visible in the foreground.

If you have a few trees in the corner of your garden, spotlight them from below to create a woodland feel, says Neville. >>

Planning is essential

Garden lighting falls into one of two categories: functional or aesthetic.

“Functional lights are ideal for boundary walls, dark areas and garden paths,” says Neville. “They enable you to see if intruders have entered your property and will prevent you from tripping over things at night. Lighting up pathways and the walls of the house is a good idea, as long as the lights are placed in such a way that they don’t shine in your eyes. All your functional lights need not be on one switch or be turned on at the same time. I also like to use timers on some of the lights.”

When you do your planning, work with two or three electrical lines, says Neville. Line 1, for example, for the power points in your garden; line 2 for functional lights and line 3 for aesthetic lighting. It makes practical sense to lead all the lines from inside your home so that you can regulate them from there.

Installation

It’s best to get an electrician to install the wiring in consultation with your landscaper. Never wire your garden lighting yourself, rather enlist the help of a qualified electrician or you won’t get an electrical compliance certificate when you sell your home later.

Although plans for garden lighting don’t need to be approved by the local authorities, a detailed drawing of where the cables will be buried is essential so that you don’t damage them when you do alterations to your home or work in your garden.

Also ensure that your lights are 12 volts. Not only is this safer for children, pets and gardeners, but it also complies with the prescribed regulations. Ask your dealer for a SELV (safety extra low voltage) system.



The idea is to softly illuminate garden paths and patio steps rather than using harsh, bright lighting. – Greg Segal

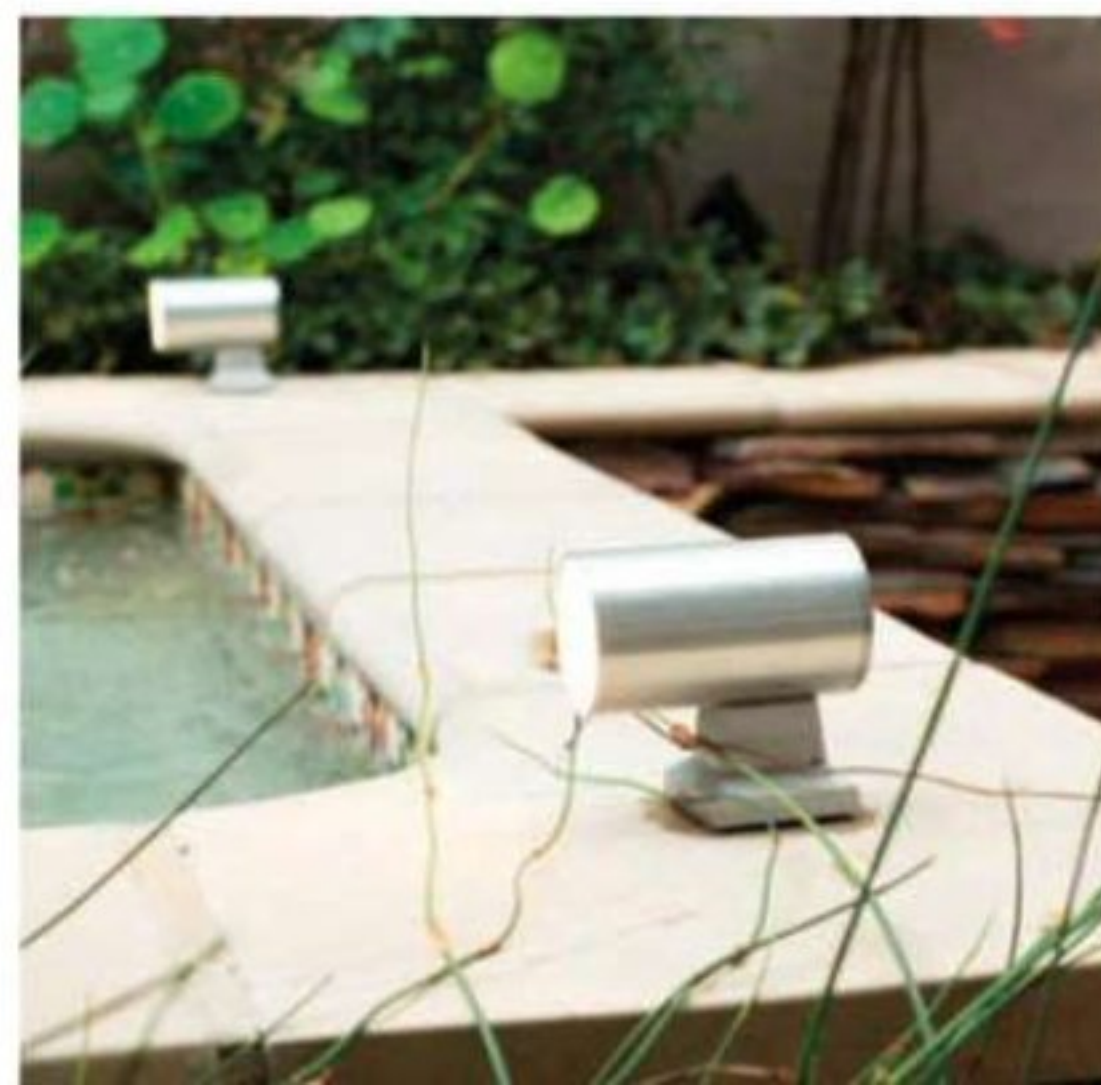
[ABOVE OR BELOW GROUND]

According to Wiidrich, cables for lighting in the garden need not be buried. “Unightly wires can be covered with plants or mulch, but it’s best to lay the cables inside pipes to protect them from moisture and from getting damaged by garden equipment.

“We prefer laying electrical cables inside PVC pipes at least 200–300mm deep – the same pipes that electricians install inside your house,” he says. “People won’t trip over them,

they can’t get damaged by garden tools, and pets won’t be able to chew them.” You can also use irrigation pipes but they are softer and won’t necessarily survive the tines of a garden fork!

Always check what your local municipality’s requirements are, if any; especially with regard to obtaining an electrical compliance certificate if you plan to sell your house in the future.



Don't illuminate every statue, tree or pot.
Focus on the most beautiful element in your garden
 and use soft lighting to highlight the rest of
 the space. – Neville

[WHICH LIGHTS WHERE?]

- **Function** The function of the light will determine your choice, says Walter. "A strong light is better for security purposes. Remember to position the light so that it shines away from your home, otherwise it will keep you awake at night."
- **Focus** "If you want to highlight a focal point in the garden, the light should preferably be between your home and the object and must shine on it. In this instance, choose a light with a narrow beam rather than a broad one. And when lights are only needed to create atmosphere, choose a softer light that glows rather than shines," Walter explains.

- **Types of globes** Wiidrich says warm, white LED globes with a radius of 120 degrees provide soft light; 3W or 4W is strong enough to create atmosphere and will consume very little electricity. If you want floodlights, choose stronger globes (usually 10W or 20W) but still use LEDs – they will save you more than 60% in electricity consumption compared to halogen globes.
- **Style** The garden lights you choose should complement the architecture of your home, adds Walter. "You wouldn't use an Asian-style light fitting with a farmstead-style home!"

Green options

Solar panels as a power source for garden lighting are becoming increasingly popular, but Walter warns that your panels should have sufficient strength for the number and type of lights in the garden. If you have a solar panel system for your home, you can add the garden lights to it, but if you install lights with their own solar panels, get expert advice before you buy them or ask your landscaper to accompany you to the supplier. "Beware of the cheap DIY solar-powered lights common in lots of stores. Often, their batteries are only strong enough to provide light until midnight and that won't do for security," says Walter.

Because of increasing eco-awareness, there are now a large number of 'green energy' options available. "Solar lights are not only energy-efficient, but also save on having to buy expensive cabling. Even fairy lights now work with solar energy – you can convert your entire garden into a fairyland by draping them between tree branches."

Walter also warns against buying cheap products. "The most inexpensive solar lights last for only a year and then their rechargeable batteries need replacing. Good quality lights will definitely last longer – they're worth the extra money spent. The bigger the panel, the brighter and longer the LED shines. Ask the salesperson for advice before you buy."

Materials

The lifespan of your garden lights will depend on the material from which they are made. Good quality products should last 15 to 20 years.

Walter says the best garden lights to buy – those capable of withstanding the elements – should be encased in stainless steel or UV-resistant plastic. Ordinary steel rusts and aluminium will erode, he says.

Wiidrich says lights that are used in your swimming pool or in a fountain must be checked every year in case they need to be resealed. "We use waterproof gel fittings and irrigation cables for our underwater installations.

"Joins underground are secured with a little cement so that the pipes won't shift around and weaken the joins. I mix a little cement and dig a small hollow under the join in which I put the cement and then I position the pipe.

"Also, choose good quality waterproof switches for outdoor use. It doesn't help spending money on waterproof globes or lights when the switches leak." Wiidrich adds that you should not be tempted to make purchases at cheap stores.

Greg agrees: "Avoid cheap plastic lighting because the extreme South African climatic conditions will soon destroy them."

TOP TIPS

Take these tips into consideration before making final decisions on lighting:

Walter

- Your garden's design – including lighting – should suit your lifestyle and needs.
- It is always good to connect garden lights to a timer or light sensor so that they switch on and off automatically. This will save electricity as well as the effort of switching each and every light on at dusk and then having to switch some off again at bedtime.

Greg

- Keep your lighting subtle; create atmosphere rather than having too many lights that make your garden look like a sports field. Take your neighbours into consideration: if your lights shine in their windows all night, they won't be happy!
- Avoid coloured lights in your garden – this can easily look cheap and nasty. Focus on warm, white lights that will enhance your garden plants.

Wiidrich

- Consider finishing off garden paths with rope lights that form part of the paving. This type of lighting is protected against the elements and shines towards the lawn, but provides enough illumination to safely navigate pathways. They're available in lengths of 10m or 20m.

Marcus

- Although architects are not necessarily garden experts, it's a good idea to involve them in the planning of all elements of your property so that the project forms a cohesive whole. Your garden and house design should complement each other and architects can offer good advice.
- Uplighters placed in trees are a good option for soft general lighting that will also turn the foliage into a focal point.

Neville

- A well-designed lighting plan ensures a seamless transition between your home and your garden and extends your entertainment area.
- Don't use sensor lights for purposes other than security because they provide very bright light that can blind your guests and will wash out the colours of your garden. 🏠

CONTACTS

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Garden diary

Sharpen your secateurs and don your gardening gloves – it's time to prune!

Compiled by Gillian Eva • Photographs: Francois Oberholster and supplied

Tip of the month

Make sure that your lawnmower blades are sharp and that you have fertiliser and compost ready for spring dressing of lawns.

Tasks for July

By Kay Montgomery

1 Pruning pointers

Summer- and autumn-flowering shrubs must be pruned now, while rose pruning is usually done in late July (see *Ludwig's rose corner*). Cut back shrubs to create a rounded shape and remove dead wood and straggly stems. In very cold gardens, delay pruning until August to avoid frost damage to new shoots.

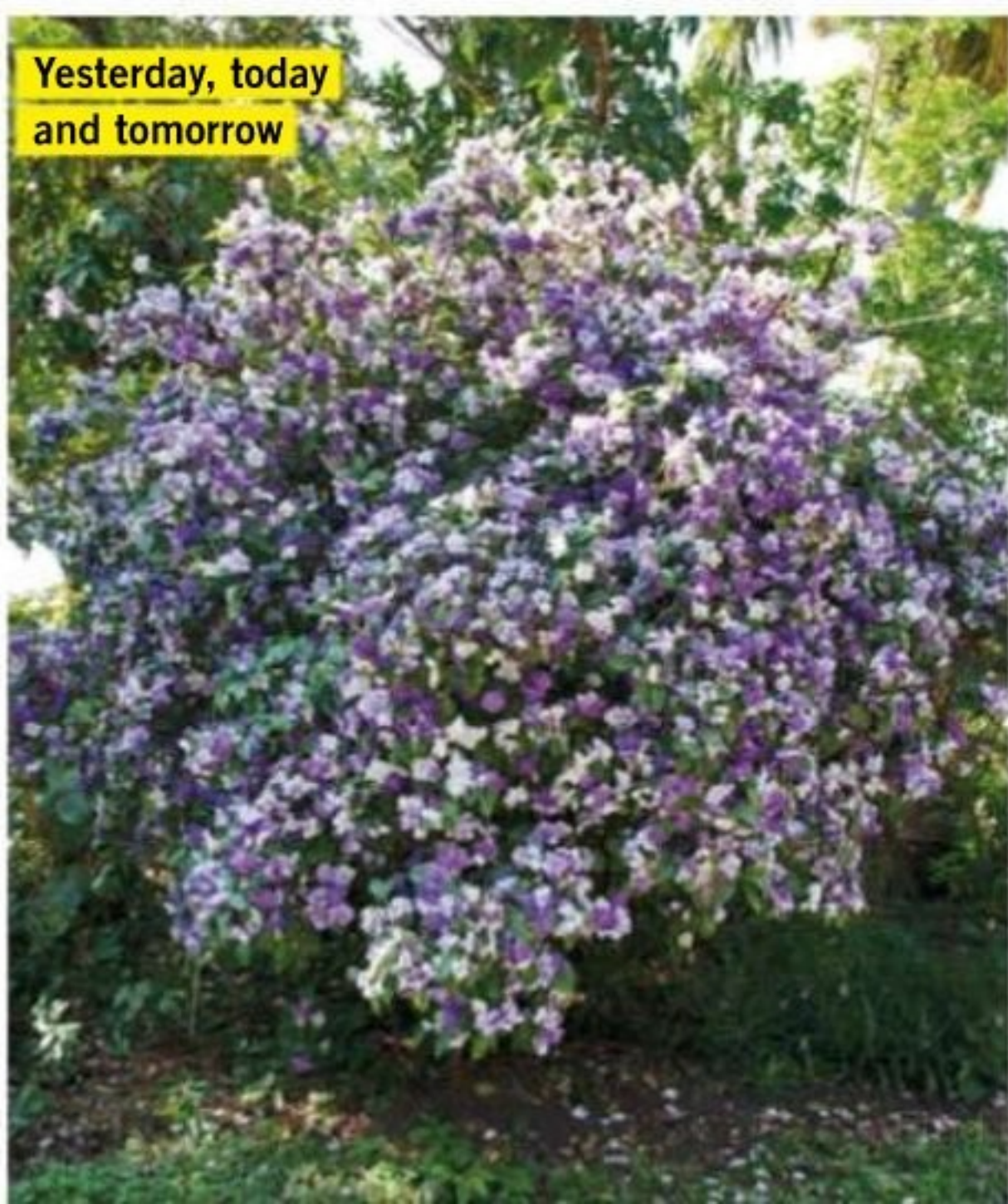
Don't prune banksia or heritage roses now or you'll be cutting off developing flower buds. The same goes for spring-flowering climbers and shrubs such as **Chinese jasmine** (*Jasminum polyanthum*), star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) and **yesterday, today and tomorrow** (*Brunfelsia pauciflora*).

Deciduous fruit trees are pruned according to type, and it is necessary to know on which wood the fruit is borne, so ask your local garden centre for advice.



Chinese jasmine

Yesterday, today and tomorrow





Cape plumbago

2 Protection and privacy

In winter when colours fade and the bareness of the garden is revealed, the importance of evergreen plants becomes even more evident.

In cold winter gardens, boundary plantings of conifers help deflect wind and protect plants. Conifers are evergreen, frost-hardy and come in different shapes – columnar, pyramidal or spreading, with foliage of green, gold or grey.

Hedges aren't just for boundary plantings, windbreaks, to provide privacy or a nesting place for birds; they can also be used internally in the garden to screen one section from another. Suitable hedging plants are *Abelia grandiflora*, *Cape plumbago*, *Escallonia*, evergreen viburnums, *Raphiolepis* and *Tecoma capensis*.

This month...

- Check that stakes and ties on shrubs and perennials haven't rotted and that ties are not cutting into the stem. Carefully cut away old ties and retie on another part of the stem using a figure 8.
- Reduce the length of brittle or long branches on shrubs and trees, such as *Lasiandra* and *Tibouchina*, to avoid breakage in August winds.
- Plant *Leucospermum*, *Erythrina* and *Greyia sutherlandii* and birds will visit your winter and early spring garden to feast on the nectar-laden flowers.
- Feed flowering bulbs with Hadeco Bulb Food once a fortnight. Cut off withered flowers on early daffodils, but

leave the stems and leaves until they have yellowed, as they help to build nutrients for next year's flowering.

- Plant deciduous azalea hybrids for late spring blooms in inland gardens. These produce clusters of white, yellow, pink and burnt orange flowers. Azaleas require acid soil and dappled shade.
- The winter months belong to the classic *Camellia japonica* and its cultivars. These are dense, upright shrubs with glossy green leaves and single or double flowers with rosettes of neat, overlapping petals. These old favourites stand up well to cold but require more shade than other camellias.

Rosa 'Madiba'



Strelitzia 'Mandela's Gold'



Protea cynaroides 'Madiba'



In remembrance of Madiba

Nelson Mandela Day is celebrated on 18 July. Grow one (or all!) of these three plants in his honour:

- For temperate gardens, the yellow form of *Strelitzia reginae* 'Mandela's Gold' is a dramatic plant in the landscape, withstanding drought and coastal conditions. Plant it in a sunny position in rich, well-drained soil.
- *Rosa* 'Madiba', released in 1996 by Ludwig's Roses, is a fragrant hybrid tea rose with pointed buds of maroon-pink opening to deep lilac.
- Dark pink, almost red, *Protea cynaroides* 'Madiba' flowers from August to October and does best in an open position in well-drained soil and full sun.

Community outreach

Veggie-growing kits

Agriculture firms Laeveld Agrochem and AgricultSURE have joined forces to launch the Seed Kit Project which will equip people to grow their own vegetables – and they're encouraging schools and community support groups to become involved in providing the kits to lower-income groups in particular.

The Seed Kits include seeds and two types of fertiliser plus easy-to-follow instructions. The winter kit (cabbage, beetroot, onion, carrot and turnip seeds) and summer kit (gem squash, green beans, cabbage,

carrot and spinach seeds) sell for R150 each. Just add water and you can produce 100–120kg of nutrient-rich vegetables on a piece of land as small as 15m². For as little as R1 200 (four summer and four winter kits) you can grow enough vegetables to feed a household of six for a year.

The Seed Kits will be distributed through Laeveld Agrochem's 65 depots countrywide.

For more information, call Jeanette Nel on 012 940 4398. >>





Cat grass

Herb of the month

Pet grass

Have you noticed your dogs or cats nibbling on your lawn? Pamper them by planting their own 'pet grass'!

How to grow Pet grass needs plenty of sun and well-composted soil that drains well. Water regularly and cut back when straggly.

- Cat grass (*Dactylus glomerata*) is a perennial with grey-green leaves which is also loved by dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs. It forms a dense tussock about 20cm tall and is ideal for pots.
- Dog grass (*Spartina pectinata*) is a sterile, tall-growing evergreen perennial. It does well in well-composted, well-watered soil. Plant a few clumps in different areas of the garden or in containers and thin out the clumps if necessary after a year or two.

Tip of the month If you don't want your dogs to destroy your pet grass, trim off a few leaves and add it to their meals once a day.

Common problems Dog grass spreads via its rhizomes and can become dense and spreading so it needs to be controlled.

Uses Pet grass provides minerals and folic acid that supports growth and increases oxygen levels in the blood.

It also regulates bowel movements and digestive problems because it can prompt animals to vomit which clears the stomach of fur, feathers or bones that irritate the digestive tract.

CONTACT healthyliving-herbs.co.za



Dog grass

Know your invasive plants

Each month, we feature a plant that has become invasive in SA and which you may encounter in your garden or neighbourhood.

Bugweed (*Solanum mauritianum*) is a large shrub that grows up to 4m high with velvety stems and dull green, broad leaves that are velvety above and felty beneath – they emit a strong noxious smell when crushed. Bugweed bears purple flowers in compact clusters at the end of the branches and spherical berries that start off green and turn yellow. Birds eat the fruits, which spreads the seeds.

Invasive status

Category 1b invasive plant, which means that it must be removed from your property to avoid prosecution.

Why is it a problem?

Bugweed competes with and replaces indigenous species. The unripe fruits are poisonous and the hairy leaves and stems can cause allergic dermatitis and asthma.

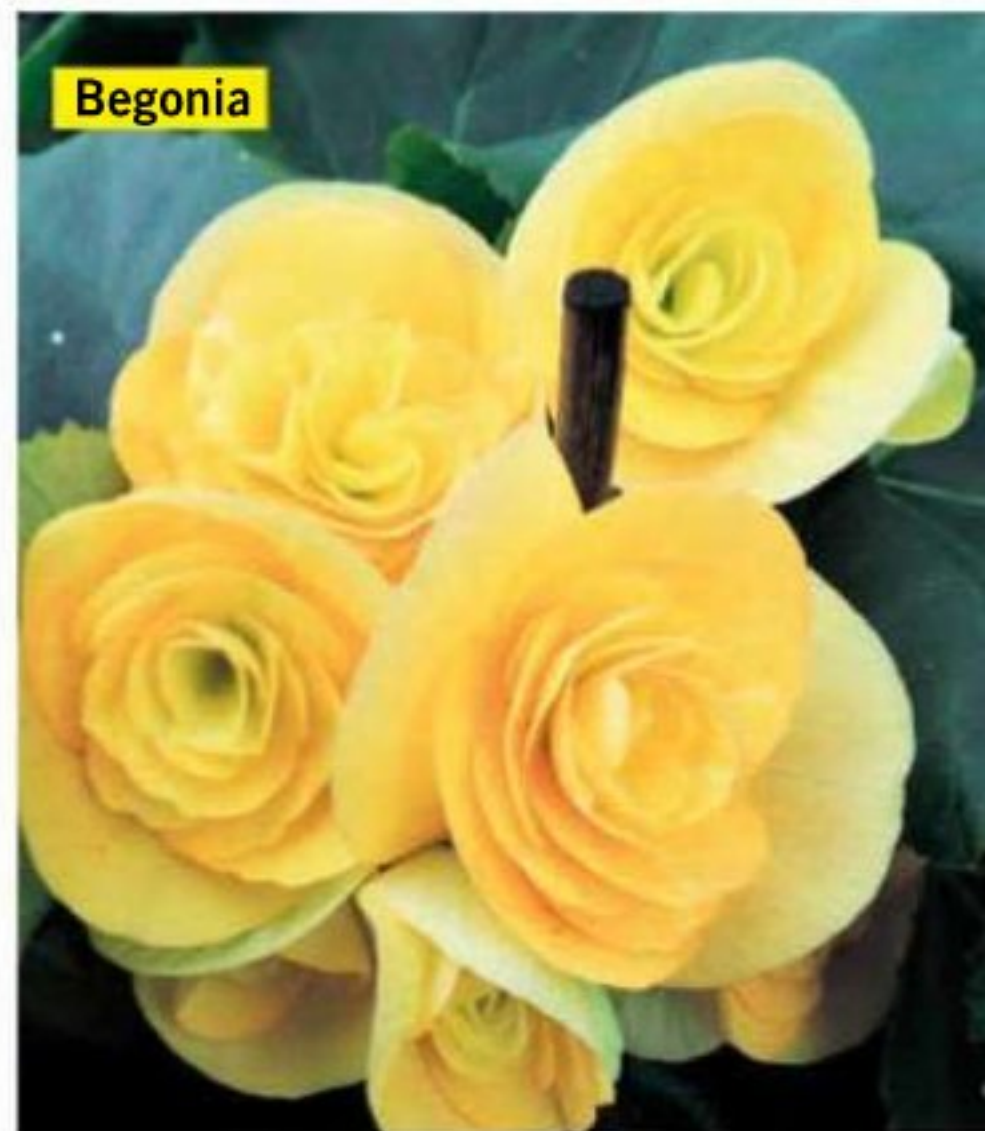
CONTACT invasives.org.za



Bugweed

inset photograph Lukas Otto

Photograph Kay Montgomery



Begonia

Indoor plant of the month

Begonia

With their large, frilly flowers in a range of bright colours, tuberous begonias (*Begonia elatior*) are sure to brighten up your home in the bleak midwinter months. Although they won't survive the cold outdoors, they thrive in a warm, bright room indoors. Keep the soil moist (not soggy or they rot); depending on the temperature, half a cup of water a week should suffice. Avoid wetting the leaves. Feed with a liquid fertiliser once a month, and remove dead flowers.

CONTACT plantimex.co.za



Garden goodies

Easy composting

Recycle all your kitchen scraps and grass clippings into useful compost with the 150L Green Genie domestic composter bin. It comes with a lockable lid to keep vermin and small animals at bay and a bottom hatch for easy compost removal. It is made of durable plastic and also has an under-lid pest-repellent holder. Order directly from greengenie.co.za.



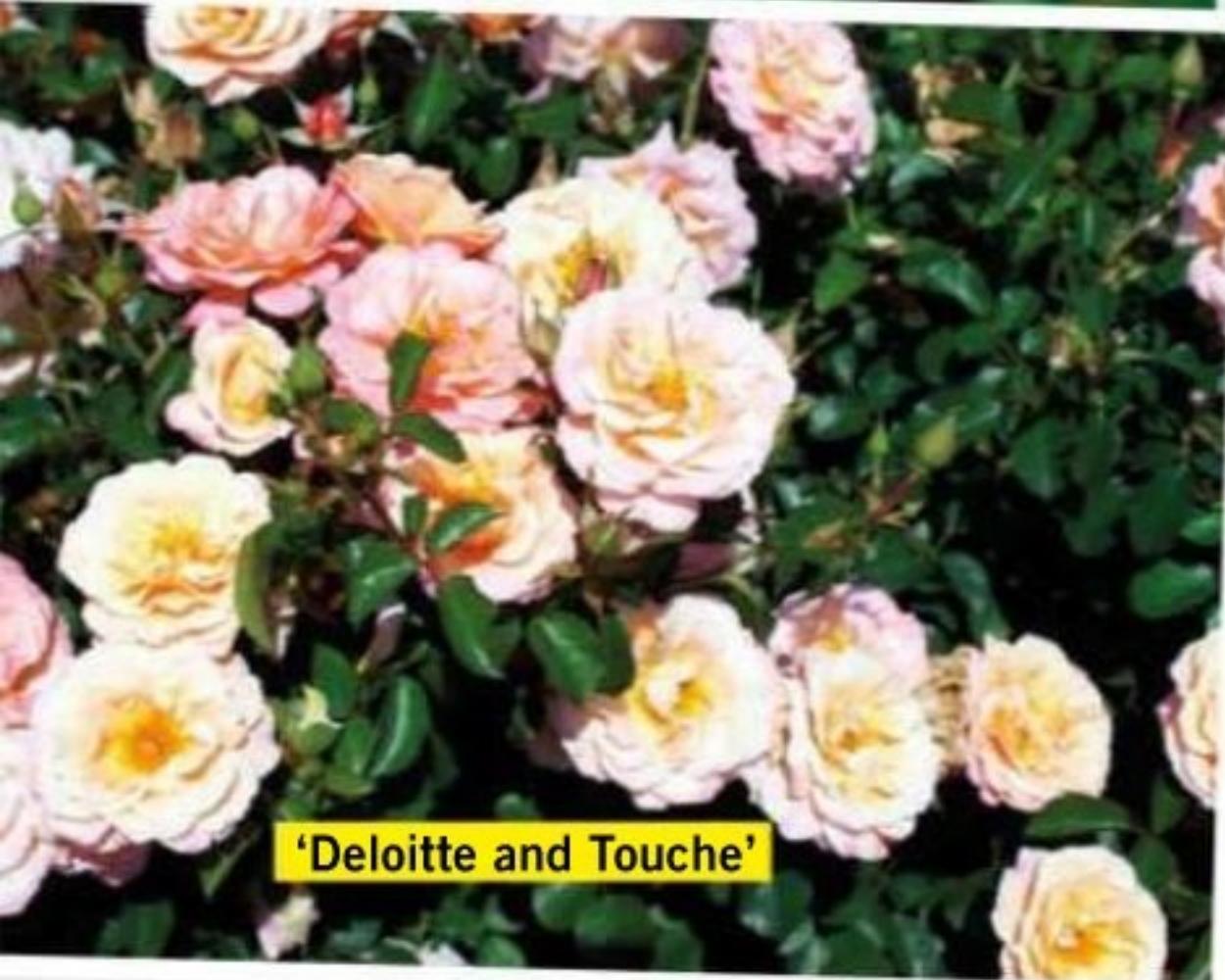


Ludwig's rose corner

Rose guru Ludwig Taschner focuses on winter pruning.



'Compassion'



'Deloitte and Touche'

Q: I trained my 'Compassion' climbing rose up a trellis attached to a wall but expected more flowers. How should I prune it?

→ Climbing roses flower best when their canes are trained horizontally because this activates the eyes all the way along the stem to sprout and flower. When a stem grows upwards, only the top two eyes sprout and then flower. If it arches downwards, it still flowers at the highest point of the bow.

At pruning time, loosely tie canes to the support or to other stems as horizontally as possible. Once the main stems are tied in place, it will be easy to identify which side-shoots on the main stems aren't necessary and can be pruned back to about 10cm. By leaving a stub with two to three eyes, new growth will develop quickly and the best flowers will come from these shoots. Clean out twiggy growth and where a stem has forked, cut away one of the tines. Branches that are two to three years old can be retained if they're important to the framework. Remove leaves where possible.

Q: I have 'Deloitte and Touche' roses that are performing so well late in this season. Must I still prune them?

→ You can delay pruning to the end of July and reduce watering so that they are forced to become dormant. When pruning this kind of spreading rose, don't cut back too hard; just a trim will do, leaving plenty of twigs and as much horizontal growth as possible. The eyes sprout more evenly along horizontal stems and this produces better new growth and flowers.

Winter pruning of hybrid tea roses

Hybrid tea roses are still a firm favourite because of their perfect cut flowers. After this past season of drought, and the uncertainty in many areas of what spring will bring, it is better to prune lightly rather than severely which can put too much strain on the rose if watering is still restricted.

Light pruning allows the rose to quickly make new leaves because the eyes are fresher and younger and sprout more easily. With more leaves being produced, the roots are encouraged to spread, going deeper and wider, finding new sources of water and nutrients which makes the rose far more likely to survive when there is less water.

Severe pruning (to about 50cm) reduces the number of stems and they are cut back to older dormant eyes that take longer to sprout. If the rose does not receive enough water, the sprouting takes even longer, which means that fewer leaves are produced on shorter stems and the root system remains underdeveloped and does not cope with intermittent watering.

How to prune more lightly, under normal climatic conditions:

- Instead of cutting down to knee height, cut back to hip height for most varieties and retain some side stems on the main stems.
- Remove dead branches and older main stems (these stems and thorns are grey in colour).
- Cut forked branches back to a single tine.
- Pull off all leaves because they can harbour pests and diseases.

When to prune

From mid-July onwards and not later than the first week in August. In very cold areas (eastern Free State and the Kokstad area of southern KZN), delay pruning until the end of August.

Aftercare

Remove all leaves as they shelter pests during winter. Enrich and aerate the soil by digging in compost, peanut shells, crushed apricot pips, etc. to a depth of 30cm. Sprinkle Vigorosa over the surface of the bed and water well. 🌱



A rose bush after light pruning.

July pruning demos

Attend a free winter pruning demonstration with Ludwig:

- 1 & 2:** Ludwig's Rose Farm, north of Pretoria (10:30)
- 2:** Ludwig's Roses Pretoria East, Lynnwood Road (14:00)
- 8 & 9:** Ludwig's Roses Egoli, Glenferness (10:30)
- 15:** Ludwig's Roses Cape Town, Constantia (14:00)
- 15 & 16:** Ludwig's Roses Winelands, Stellenbosch (10:30)

There's no need to book; for more information, go to ludwigsroses.co.za.



Marié Esterhuyse

Flowers for winter

Even though it's cold outside, there are plenty of gorgeous plants in bloom; these beauties are sure to brighten up your home...

By Marié Esterhuyse
Photographs
Francois Oberholster
Styling Hermien Coetzee

Choose vases in dark or earthy colours that will complement the season and the colour of the berries and flowers.

“Your garden doesn’t need to be dull in winter,” says **Hermien Coetzee** of Flowers in the Foyer in Stellenbosch. “There are plenty of plants in bloom now that will look great in a vase in your home.



Think of magnolias, camellias, flowering quince, the indigenous ginger bush, a variety of proteas, *Serruria*, arum lilies in the Cape and bright orange red-hot poker, to name a few.” And that’s not all. “Before you start pruning, pick the berries, seeds and rose hips that formed on the plants in autumn; they always look wonderful in a winter arrangement.”

Ginger bush

(*Tetradenia riparia*)

You can’t miss the feathery flowers of the ginger bush. This indigenous shrub bears purple, white and sometimes pink flowers at the tips of the bare branches from June to August. If you live in a frost-prone area, plant it in a warmer part of your garden or provide frost protection so the flowers don’t get damaged. (The plant’s natural habitat is in those regions that experience little to no frost, such as KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga.)

The ginger bush is fast-growing and will bear flowers in its first year. The leaves are fragrant and the plant is traditionally used for medicinal purposes. Plant it in well-drained, compost-rich soil in full sun. In warmer regions, it will also thrive in semi-shade. In summer it needs more water than in winter, which makes it the ideal plant for summer rainfall regions. >>

Prune your ginger bush *early in spring*, just after it’s finished flowering.

Did you know?

- If you cut back your ginger bush by about two-thirds after the first flush of flowers, it will bloom again.
- Taking cuttings is easy – do so in spring and summer. Any stems can be used and even thick stems will root easily; simply press into the soil in the desired position.
- The ginger bush is not related to the ginger that is commonly used for cooking.

Plant guide

- ✓ Full sun
- ✓ Average water needs
- ✓ Frost sensitive
- ✓ Grows 1–3m tall
- ✓ Deciduous
- ✓ Good cut flower



Hermien says...

A bare branch or two is a must! This will emphasise the winter theme and the one or two emerging buds on the stem, such as on the flowering quince, will add a pop of colour.

Camellia (*Camellia japonica* 'Elegans')

This camellia thrives in the shade and is covered with flowers in winter. Its blooms drop off the shrub throughout its long flowering season; leave them where they fall to create a pretty floral carpet beneath the shrub. Camellias are evergreen and frost-resistant.



Tulip magnolia (*Magnolia X soulangeana*)

Tulip magnolias grow well in full sun and are frost-resistant. They bloom from midwinter to spring on bare branches, making them all the more striking. The leaves appear once the flowering season is over. This is a large shrub that grows up to 5m tall.



Flowering quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*)

Flowering quince is a hardy shrub that flowers on bare branches from late winter to spring. Plant it in full sun. The shrub only needs pruning to retain its shape; even if you don't prune it at all, it will still flower prolifically. Flowering quince is frost-resistant and deciduous.



Hellebore

Other winter-flowering plants

- Hellebore (*Helloborus* spp.)
- Fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*)
- Pansy (*Viola* spp.)
- Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*)
- Cobra lily (*Chasmanthe floribunda*)*
- Garden red-hot poker (*Kniphofia praecox*)*
- Aloe spp.*
- Blushing bride (*Serruria florida*)*
- Arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)*
- Bird-of-paradise flower/crane flower (*Strelitzia reginae*)*

* indigenous 🇿🇦

Sources Gardening with Keith Kirsten by Keith Kirsten; *The South African What Flower is That?* by Kristo Pienaar; plantzafrica.com

CONTACT Flowers in the Foyer 021 887 8138, flowersinthe foyer.co.za
Flowers supplied by Rustenburg Wine Estate (021 809 1200, rustenberg.co.za)

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Beef curry
Recipe on page 116.

Hot curries

FOR COLD NIGHTS

There's nothing like a curry to warm the cockles of your heart this winter.

By Johané Neilson • Photographs Ed O'Riley

Prawn pasta

This rich pasta is meant for sharing – but choose a dinner companion who doesn't mind getting messy! (You can, of course, also peel the prawns first if you prefer.)

Serves 2 • Preparation time: 15 minutes
• Cooking time: 10–15 minutes

- 15ml each butter and oil
- 12 large prawns, deveined
- 1 small chilli, seeded and finely chopped
- 1 knob ginger, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and finely chopped
- 15ml mild curry powder
- 6 plum tomatoes, roughly chopped

- 150–200g linguine pasta, cooked al dente
- zest of 1 lemon
- a handful of fresh basil or coriander, shredded

1 Heat the butter and oil in a pan until the butter begins to foam, then add the prawns. Fry until bright pink on one side. Turn the prawns over and add the chilli, ginger,

garlic, curry and tomatoes. Stir-fry for a few minutes until fragrant. The prawns will turn a lovely pink all over and the sauce should be aromatic and chunky.

2 Add another splash of olive oil, or cream if you feel like a treat; season with salt and freshly ground black pepper and stir the warm pasta into the sauce. Spoon onto two plates immediately and sprinkle the lemon zest and fresh herbs on top. >>

Potato and chickpea samoosas

This is my version of the delicious potato and feta samoosas I find so difficult to resist at the Milnerton flea market.

Makes about 18 samoosas
Preparation time: 45 minutes
Cooking time: 45 minutes
Oven temperature: 180°C

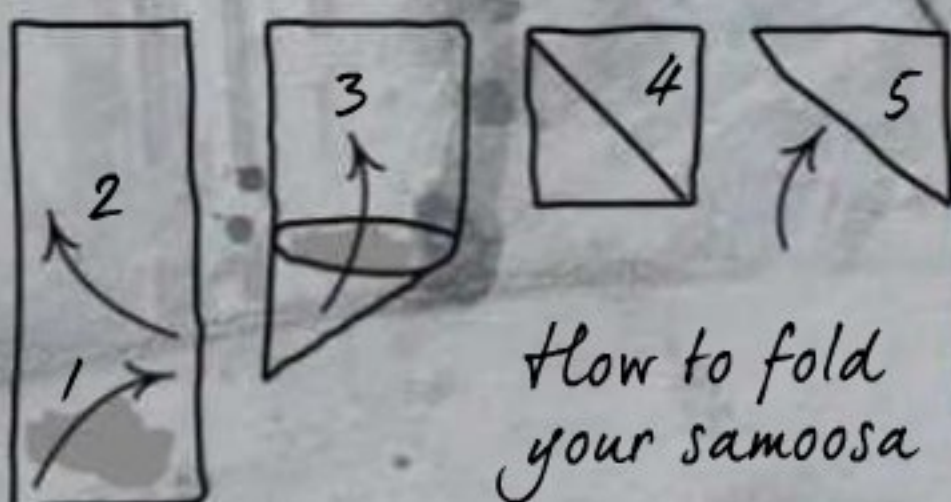
- 800g potato blocks (1cm)
- 30ml oil
- 15ml mild curry powder
- 5cm fresh turmeric root, peeled and grated
- 5ml black mustard seeds
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 5cm fresh ginger, peeled and grated
- 1 green chilli, seeded and chopped
- 5 curry leaves
- 1 tin chickpeas, drained
- 3 feta rounds
- 6 sheets phyllo pastry
- about 125ml butter, melted

1 Boil the potato blocks until just soft and drain. Meanwhile, heat the oil and fry the curry powder, turmeric, mustard seeds, onion, ginger, chilli and curry leaves together until the onion is glossy and the spices are fragrant. Stir in the hot potato and chickpeas, remove from the heat and stir until well mixed. Crumble the feta over (make sure it is evenly distributed) and season with salt and pepper to taste.

2 Preheat the oven. Roll out the phyllo pastry and cut each sheet into three strips of the same width. Work with one strip at a time and place the rest of the pastry under a damp cloth to prevent it from drying out.

3 Brush the pastry strip with melted butter and add a generous dollop of the filling just above the lowest corner (*see sketch*).

Fold the pastry from the bottom up over the filling, until the entire strip is used up, to form a triangular parcel. Make sure that the tips are sealed properly and place the parcel on a baking tray lined with baking paper. Repeat with all 18 strips. Brush the phyllo parcels with any remaining butter and bake for 20–25 minutes or until golden brown and crispy.



Thai green curry with meatballs

A coconut-milk green curry like this is a wonderful way to serve a variety of flavourful vegetables quickly and easily. The meatballs, instead of the usual chicken pieces, give it a delicious twist.



Makes 4 generous servings
Preparation time: 40 minutes
Cooking time: 25 minutes

- 45ml oil
- 3 shallots or 1 small onion, very finely chopped
- 5–15ml pre-made green curry paste
- 500g pork or chicken mince
- 400g mixed vegetables such as snap peas, broccoli florets, bok choy, baby spinach and mini corn
- 400ml coconut milk
- egg noodles, lime juice and fresh coriander, to serve

1 Heat about 15ml of the oil in a pan and sauté the onions in the oil until glossy. Stir in the curry paste and a dash of water and

cook until dry. Cool slightly. Mix the curried onions with the mince and season with a pinch of salt. Wet your hands and roll into bite-sized meatballs.

2 Blanch the vegetables in boiling water, drain and set aside. Heat the remaining oil in a deep pan and fry the meatballs until golden brown all over. Add the vegetables and stir-fry over high heat for a few minutes. Finally, stir in the coconut milk and cook for 5–10 minutes until the meatballs are done and the liquid has reduced slightly. Spoon over cooked egg noodles and season with fresh lime juice and a sprinkling of coriander. If you prefer, you can add soy sauce for extra flavour. >>

Curried fishcakes

Fishcakes are always a great way to use leftover braaied fish (like snoek, for example). Use at least two kinds of fish for best results.

Makes 12 fishcakes

Preparation time: 45 minutes

Cooking time: 25 minutes

- 4 medium-sized potatoes (about 500g), peeled
- about 250g smoked snoek, flaked
- about 450g firm white fish, flaked
- 15ml each fish masala and mild curry powder
- 60ml chopped fresh coriander
- 4 spring onions, white parts finely chopped
- about 125ml flour
- 3 egg whites, whisked (keep the yolks for the mayonnaise)
- about 350ml panko breadcrumbs*
- olive oil and butter for shallow-frying
- lemon wedges, to serve

1 Boil the potatoes in salted water until cooked, drain and then mash. Season with salt and pepper and allow to cool slightly. Mix the flaked fish, spices, coriander and spring onions with the mash, then shape the mixture into 12 equal-sized fishcakes and refrigerate for 1 hour (this makes the fishcakes easier to handle when coating with the breadcrumbs).

2 Roll the fishcakes in the flour first; shake off any excess flour and then dip them in the egg white and finally the breadcrumbs.

3 Fry the fishcakes in olive oil and butter until golden brown on all sides and crispy. Serve hot with lemon wedges and mayonnaise.

* **Panko** is a Japanese-style breadcrumb (*panko* means bread in Japanese). Panko has a light, flaky texture rather than crumbly and absorbs less oil than regular breadcrumbs when fried; it's available at Woolworths.

MASALA MAYONNAISE

Beat **3 egg yolks**, **5ml Dijon mustard**, **5ml mustard seeds**, **15ml lemon juice** and about **3ml masala curry powder** until thick and creamy. Whisk in about **200ml canola oil**, a drop at a time, until the mixture is thick and smooth. (Once half of the oil is whisked in, you can gradually pour in the rest.) Season to taste with **salt and pepper** and add more lemon juice if desired.

Tip

Give the dish more body by adding roasted vegetables such as butternut or baby marrows and brinjals or a drained tin of chickpeas.

Chicken curry with cashew nuts

This curry is always a winner – and it's very quick to make.

Serves 4

Preparation time: 35 minutes

Cooking time: 30 minutes

- 600g chicken breast fillets, cut into 3cm cubes
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 15ml lemon juice
- 250ml Greek yoghurt
- 15ml chicken masala
- 5ml cayenne pepper
- 5cm fresh turmeric root, peeled and grated

- a generous pinch of salt
- 15ml each butter and oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 tin (425g) chopped tomatoes
- 250ml cream
- 250ml roasted cashew nuts, roughly chopped
- a handful of fresh coriander

1 Mix the chicken with the garlic, lemon juice, yoghurt, spices and salt, and set aside while you fry the onions.

2 Heat the butter and oil together and fry the onions slowly over low heat until golden brown. You can even add a splash of water if it looks like they're cooking too quickly. Stir in the chicken with the marinade, tomatoes and cream, and simmer until the chicken is just cooked (15–20 minutes). Sprinkle the nuts and fresh coriander over and season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve the saucy curry with steamed basmati or jasmine rice, rotis or naan bread and sambals. >>



Beef curry

Serves 4

Preparation time: 30 minutes

Cooking time: 3 hours

- 15ml oil
- 1kg beef short rib and chuck cubes
- 30ml tamarind paste, mixed with 125ml warm water
- 400ml coconut milk
- 3 lime leaves
- 125ml coconut, toasted
- 15ml light brown sugar

SPICY PASTE

- 15ml coriander seeds
- 5ml cumin seeds
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 4 cloves
- 5ml chilli flakes (or to taste)
- 1 large knob of ginger, peeled and very finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, very finely chopped
- 1 stalk lemongrass, peeled and crushed
- 1 small onion, very finely chopped
- 5ml freshly grated turmeric

1 Make the spicy paste Roast the coriander, cumin, cinnamon stick and cloves together in a dry pan until aromatic (this step is optional, but it improves the flavour). Spoon into a mortar and pestle, and grind. Mix with the rest of the paste ingredients and about 30ml water to form a coarse paste.

2 Fry the spicy paste in the oil until aromatic (1–2 minutes). Add the meat and cook until thoroughly coated with the spicy paste and starting to brown. Add the remaining ingredients and reduce the heat to very low. Cook slowly with the lid on for 2 hours.

Remove the lid and simmer for a further 45 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent it from burning as the sauce reduces. Check the seasoning and serve with fragrant basmati rice, sambals and sliced banana.

Cucumber sambal Peel a **large cucumber** and cut into paper-thin slices (or blocks). Mix with **5ml salt**, leave to stand in a colander for about 15 minutes to drain off any excess moisture. Mix with about **125ml coconut cream**, chopped **green chilli**, **coriander**, **spring onions** and **lime juice** to taste.

Coconut milk and curry pumpkin soup

The combination of masala, tomato and coconut milk with the roasted pumpkin is amazing!

Tip

These pumpkins were hollowed out; rubbed with salt, pepper and butter; and baked in foil until soft before being used as soup bowls – they look wonderful but it's way too much pumpkin for one person. Either use very small pumpkins or make pumpkin fritters with the flesh later.

Serves 6

Preparation time: 30 minutes

Cooking time: 1 hour

Oven temperature: 200°C

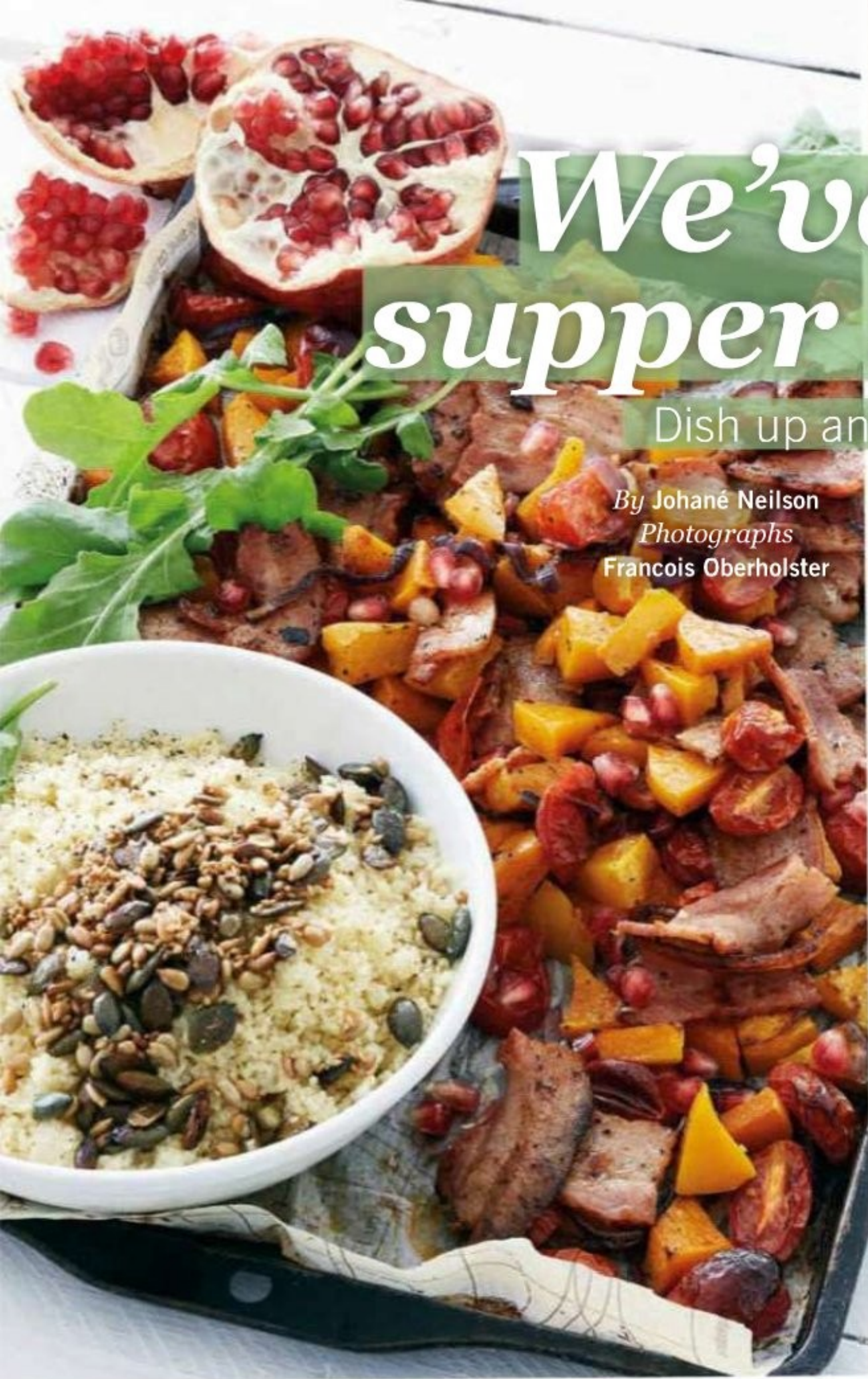
- 500g mixed pumpkin and butternut, cubed
- 4 cloves garlic
- 5 curry leaves (or 2 bay leaves)
- 15ml masala
- 5cm fresh turmeric root, peeled and grated
- 500g cherry tomatoes
- 30ml each butter and oil
- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- pinch of sugar
- 1.2L chicken stock
- 1 tin coconut cream

1 Preheat the oven. Spread the pumpkin, butternut, garlic and curry or bay leaves on a greased baking tray and sprinkle with the masala and turmeric. Season with salt, pepper and a dash of oil and roast for about 35 minutes or until done. Stir halfway through the baking process. If the pumpkin gets slightly charred here and there, even better – but not too much. If your oven is big enough, roast the tomatoes at the same time with a little oil, salt and pepper on a separate baking tray. It takes just 10 minutes for the skins to burst and the tomatoes to get a lovely rich flavour.

2 Heat the butter and oil in a large pot and fry the onions slowly until golden brown and

caramelised. To ensure that the onions are soft before they start to colour, stir in a dash of hot water that can boil away and season with a pinch of sugar. Remove and set aside.

3 Now add the cooked pumpkin and any liquid that may be in the baking tray to the same pot and add the stock. Bring to the boil and simmer for 10 minutes. Blend the soup with a stick blender, stir in the coconut cream and tomatoes, and season with salt and pepper. Bring back to the boil. I like chunks of tomato in mine, but you can blend the soup again if you prefer it smooth. Garnish with the caramelised onions and serve piping hot. 🍴



We've got supper sorted!

Dish up and enjoy...

By Johané Neilson
Photographs
Francois Oberholster



Bacon and butternut salad

Under R90 • Serves 4–6

Preparation time: 35 minutes • Cooking time: 30 minutes

- 500g butternut, cubed
- 5ml honey
- 45ml olive oil
- about 45ml balsamic vinegar
- 100g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 200g streaky bacon, chopped
- 100ml mixed pumpkin, sunflower and sesame seeds
- 250ml couscous, steamed until cooked
- 90g rocket
- pomegranate rubies, to garnish

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C. Mix the butternut with the honey, half of the oil and half the vinegar. Season with salt and pepper, and roast for about 20 minutes or until done. Add the tomatoes and roast for a few more minutes until the vegetables start to char.

2 Heat the remaining oil in a pan and fry the bacon until crispy. Scoop it out but keep any remaining fat; fry the seeds in the fat.

3 To serve Combine the vegetables, bacon, seeds, couscous and rocket. Drizzle the remaining balsamic vinegar over and garnish with a few pomegranate rubies.

Chicken stir-fry with plum sauce

Under R115 • Serves 4

Preparation time: 20 minutes • Cooking time: 15 minutes

- 30ml oil
- 4 chicken breasts, cut into strips
- about 60ml plum sauce
- 30ml sesame seeds
- 500g stir-fry vegetables (baby marrows, cabbage, peppers, carrots, broccoli and cauliflower)
- about 25ml pickled ginger
- 60ml peanuts, chopped
- 60ml fresh coriander
- 250ml brown rice, cooked
- soy sauce, to serve

1 Mix 15ml oil through the chicken and season with salt and pepper. Fry in a thick-based pan until golden brown all over and almost done. Add the plum sauce and sesame seeds and fry until cooked through and caramelised. Remove from the heat.

2 Stir-fry the vegetables in the remaining oil until done but still crunchy. Mix the cooked chicken with the vegetables; add the ginger, peanuts and coriander. Serve hot on brown rice with soy sauce to taste.

Pickled ginger *isn't just for sushi* – it adds a lovely flavour to this dish!



Gnocchi with blue cheese and cauliflower

Under R90 • Serves 4

Preparation time: 25 minutes • Cooking time: 20 minutes

- 1 small cauliflower
- 15ml olive oil
- 3ml lemon zest
- pinch of nutmeg
- pinch of chilli flakes
- 500g gnocchi
- 45ml butter
- 4 sage leaves
- a large handful of baby spinach
- 100g blue cheese, crumbled
- 125ml toasted hazelnuts or breadcrumbs

1 Cut the cauliflower into quarters and then into smaller pieces. Spread it out on a baking tray and season with the olive oil, lemon zest, nutmeg, chilli, salt and pepper. Roast under a preheated grill until done (about 15–20 minutes). Keep an eye on it and stir if necessary.

2 Bring a pot of salted water to the boil and cook the gnocchi until they start to float – an indication that they are cooked. Melt the butter in a large pan, add the sage and use a slotted spoon to scoop the cooked gnocchi out of the water and into the pan. Fry until each one is covered with butter and crispy.

3 Add the spinach and blue cheese, and stir-fry until the cheese begins to melt and the spinach wilts. Remove from the heat, mix the cauliflower through and sprinkle the nuts on top.



Posh potato salad with trout

Under R160 • Serves 4

Preparation time: 15 minutes • Cooking time: 10 minutes

- 600g baby potatoes, washed
- 250ml sour cream
- wasabi, to taste
- a handful of baby spinach
- 200g broccolini, steamed
- 1 small cucumber, peeled and cubed
- 1 large ripe avocado, peeled, pipped and cubed
- 150g smoked trout strips
- 2 spring onions, chopped
- lemon wedges, to serve

Halve the potatoes and boil in salted water until done. Drain and allow to cool slightly. Mix the sour cream and wasabi, stir through the potatoes and season with salt. Spoon the veggies and avocado on top, followed by the salmon and spring onions. Serve lukewarm with lemon wedges. 🏠

Variation

You could also use tinned salmon or tuna in this scrumptious salad.

*In association
with Hulett's*

3 ways with pastry

Make baking as easy as pie with
Hulett's Sugar.

1 *Apple, Brie and pecan nut pies*

- 500g all butter frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 1 green apple
- 15ml lemon juice
- 30ml Hulett's Castor Sugar
- 125g Brie or Camembert
- 125ml chopped pecan nuts
- egg wash

1 Carefully unroll the pastry and cut into 8 equal-sized squares. Peel and core the apple and cut into thin slices; sprinkle with the lemon juice and 15ml sugar.

2 Paint the edges of the pastry squares with egg wash and divide and place the apples, cheese and nuts in the centre of the pastry squares. Fold diagonally in half and press the edges to seal.

3 Arrange on a baking tray lined with baking paper, brush with egg wash and sprinkle the remaining sugar over the top. Extra pecan nuts can be sprinkled over the top if so desired. Bake in a preheated oven at 200°C for 15 minutes then reduce the heat to 180°C and bake for another 10 minutes or until golden brown.

These pastries are delicious served warm.





2 Free form fruit tart

- 100g (180ml) cake wheat flour
- 2 sachets Huletts EquiSweet
- 30ml desiccated coconut
- pinch of salt
- 62.5g butter
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 small bananas, peeled and sliced
- 200ml gooseberries, halved

1 Mix the flour, sweetener, coconut and salt together. Rub in the butter with your fingertips until it resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Add the egg yolk and knead until a smooth dough is formed.

2 Working on a sheet of baking paper, roll the pastry into a large roughly-shaped rectangle. Top with the fruit, leaving a 3cm edge of pastry around the filling. Grated lemon zest and sweetener can be sprinkled over the tart, if the filling is too tart. Carefully fold the edge of the pastry over the filling (*see image*). Transfer the tart to a baking tray and bake for 25–30 minutes in a preheated oven at 180°C until crispy and golden. Serve with Greek yoghurt, fresh mint and coconut shavings.



3 Tomato-chilli jam tart

- 500ml (280g) cake wheat flour
- 125ml (65g) Huletts Icing Sugar
- pinch of salt
- 200g butter
- 1 egg yolk
- 30–45ml tomato-chilli jam
- fresh basil, for garnish

1 Mix the flour, icing sugar and salt together and rub into the butter with your fingertips until it resembles breadcrumbs. Add the egg yolk and knead until a smooth pastry is formed. Divide the pastry into two equal parts, flatten into disks and wrap in cling film. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

2 Roll the pastry into two equal-sized circles. Spread the jam over one circle then place the other circle on top. Slice through the tart (both layers) from the centre outwards without cutting through the middle. Twist each piece of pastry twice while keeping the centre in place with your finger. Repeat with the remaining pastry slices. Press the edges together again. Bake in a preheated oven at 180°C for about 20 minutes or until golden brown and crisp. Serve topped with basil leaves.

YOU CAN MAKE *cannelloni*

This rich Italian classic is ideal if you have lots of mouths to feed.

By Johané Neilson

Photographs Francois Oberholster

Butternut and pork cannelloni

I love the texture of butternut but you can also use pumpkin for this recipe.

Serves 6–8

Preparation time: 45 minutes

Cooking time: 1 hour, 10 minutes

Oven temperature: 200°C

- 750g (3 packets) cannelloni tubes
- butter

FILLING

- 1.5kg butternut, cubed
- 2 onions, cut into wedges
- 3 cloves garlic
- 4 sprigs thyme
- nutmeg
- 45ml olive oil
- 280g ricotta cheese
- 125ml milk
- 8 fresh pork and sage bangers

TOMATO SAUCE

- 700ml (1 bottle) tomato passata
- fresh basil and parsley
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

WHITE SAUCE

- 500ml sour cream
- 2 handfuls of grated Parmesan cheese
- 250ml milk
- about 250g mozzarella, grated

SAGE BUTTER

- 100ml butter
- 6 sage leaves
- 60ml pine nuts (optional)



1 Make the filling Preheat the oven. Arrange the butternut, onion, garlic and thyme in an ovenproof dish then season with salt, pepper and nutmeg, and drizzle with olive oil. Roast until golden brown and tender (about 25 minutes).


2 Remove the butternut from the oven, mix in the ricotta and milk and blend to form a smooth purée. Remove the skin of the sausages, break up the meat and fry until crispy. Mix with the butternut purée. Make sure the meat is fine enough to pass through the nozzle of a piping bag. If it's a disposable bag, cut the corner slightly bigger. Reduce the oven temperature to 180°C.



3 Spoon the tomato passata onto the bottom of your ovenproof dish. Season with the fresh herbs, salt and pepper. Stand the cannelloni tubes upright in the sauce (three packets of cannelloni fitted perfectly in our 31cm-diameter dish). Spoon the filling into a piping bag and pipe it into the tubes.

4 Whisk together the sour cream and Parmesan cheese for the white sauce and dilute it with the milk. Spoon the sauce over the dish. Sprinkle the mozzarella over, cover and bake for about 30 minutes. Remove the lid and bake for a further 10 minutes or until done. Melt the butter and sauté the sage leaves and pine nuts until they start to brown. Drizzle immediately over the cooked cannelloni and tuck in! 🏠





Life is a
combination of
magic and pasta.
— Italian filmmaker
Federico Fellini



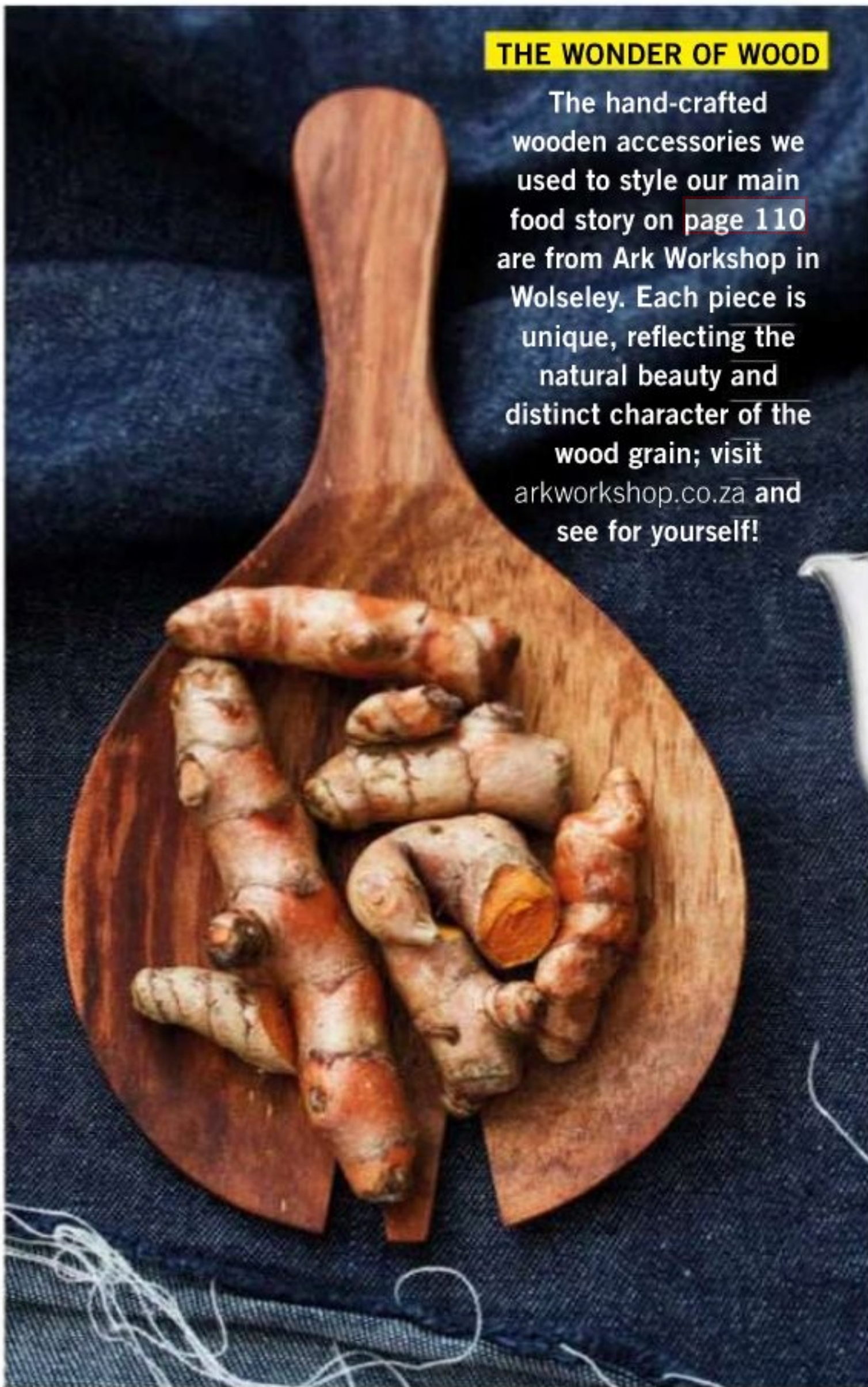
food & drinks

*Spice up your winter fare
– and don't forget the red wine!*

By Johané Neilson • Photographs: Ed O'Riley,
Quintin Mills and supplied

THE WONDER OF WOOD

The hand-crafted wooden accessories we used to style our main food story on page 110 are from Ark Workshop in Wolseley. Each piece is unique, reflecting the natural beauty and distinct character of the wood grain; visit arkworkshop.co.za and see for yourself!



Two in one

Make brewing loose-leaf tea a dream with the double-walled ceramic Tea Forte Kati Tea Maker (335ml) with a stainless steel infuser (R449, yuppiechef.com) – it's both a teapot and a cup and it comes in a variety of stunning designs.



Watch it!
Clear glass
teapot with
detachable tea
strainer, R425
woolworths.co.za



Go for goat! Kabrita instant goat's milk powder offers gentle nutrition and its easy digestibility makes it an excellent alternative for your daily dairy intake. It's available at Dis-Chem Pharmacy, Wellness Warehouse and Baby City stores nationwide; go to kabrita.co.za.

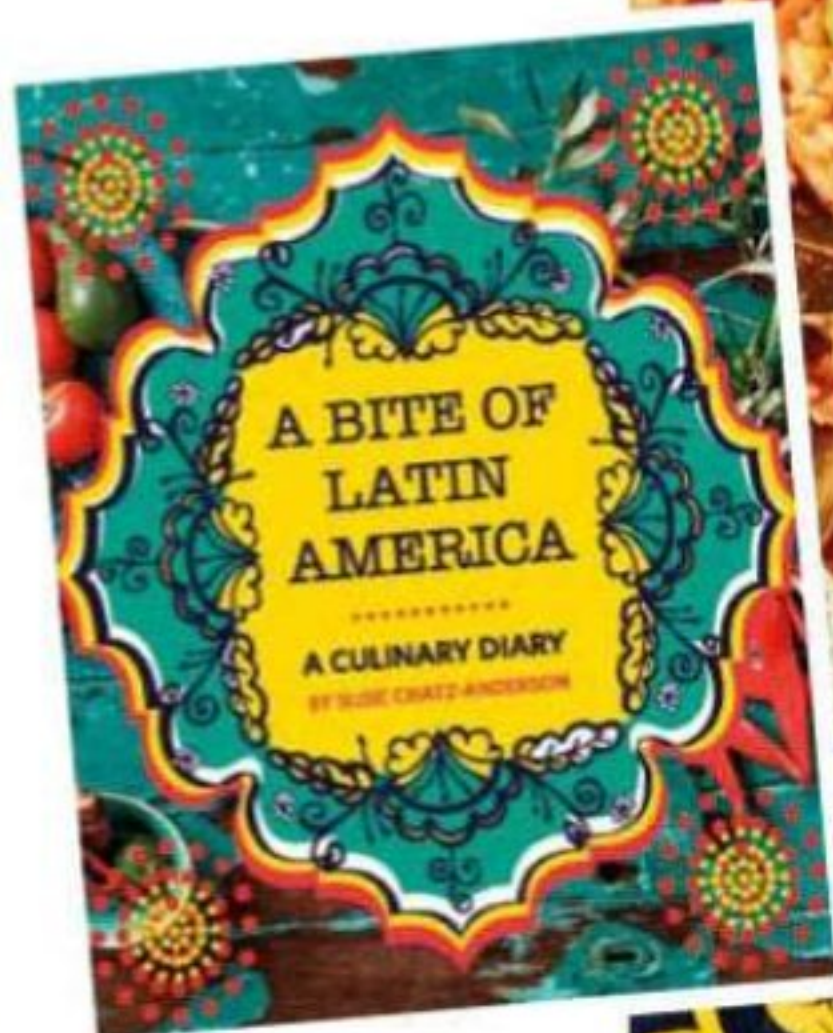
The big squeeze



The brand-new All Gold Skweezi Jam range (R23.99, leading retail outlets) is simple to use and offers the same great taste! Go to allgold.co.za.



Made to share Workshop 55 in Parktown North offers a different dining experience – they charge an entrance fee of R240 which includes a choice of three tapas-style dishes by chef Alex Webber (additional dishes cost R70 each). The elegant, seasonal dishes are partnered with finely-crafted drinks in a laid-back setting and now with the addition of Lounge 55 (we love the pink Christian Lacroix wallpaper!) there's good reason to arrive early for a pre-dinner drink with jazz and smooth Cuban sounds. Check out workshop55.co.za.



*Pescado a la Veracruzana
(Mexican fish baked
in olive and
tomato sauce)*



Arriba arriba!

In her new book **A Bite of Latin America** (R340; Human & Rousseau), Susie Chatz-Anderson shares her culinary journey through Central and South America where she discovers real Latin American food. Packed with anecdotes and colourful images, this book will help you recreate the magic of these meals at home.



1 VIVA ITALIA A Wellington stalwart, Bosman Family Vineyard's **Nero D'Avola 2015** (pronounced Neh-roh Dah-voh-lah) is a medium-bodied red with fresh berry flavours and a hint of pepper (R150, bosmanwines.com). Just saying the name feels almost as good as the wine tastes!

2 WORTH THE WAIT The first Syrah from Lanzerac in more than 10 years, **Lanzerac Syrah 2015** (R140, lanzerac.co.za) boasts aromas of white pepper, coriander, fynbos and plums poached in red wine followed by a complex palate of ripe red and black berries with a savoury undertone. Try it!

3 A PROUD PINOT PEDIGREE Thanks to the fan-like cooling effect of the Babylon Toren Mountain, Creation's Pinot Noir vineyards thrive on the slopes below the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, slowly ripening their fruit to offer well-balanced flavour. The deep ruby-red **Creation Pinot Noir 2016** (R1 260 for a case of six, creationwines.com) has an intensely fragrant bouquet of red berry aromas, elegant vanilla and a whiff of wood spice.

Goodness on the go

The Fry Family Food Co has launched SA's first plant-based gluten-free breakfast cereal, Kasha. Mix with water or milk for a simple meal packed with superfoods and protein, or use it to boost a delicious smoothie.

You can choose between Cacao and Vanilla with Chia Seed. Kasha will be sold in major retailers (Shoprite, Checkers, Pick n Pay, Spar, Dis-Chem) at the recommended price of R54.99; go to fryfamilyfood.com.



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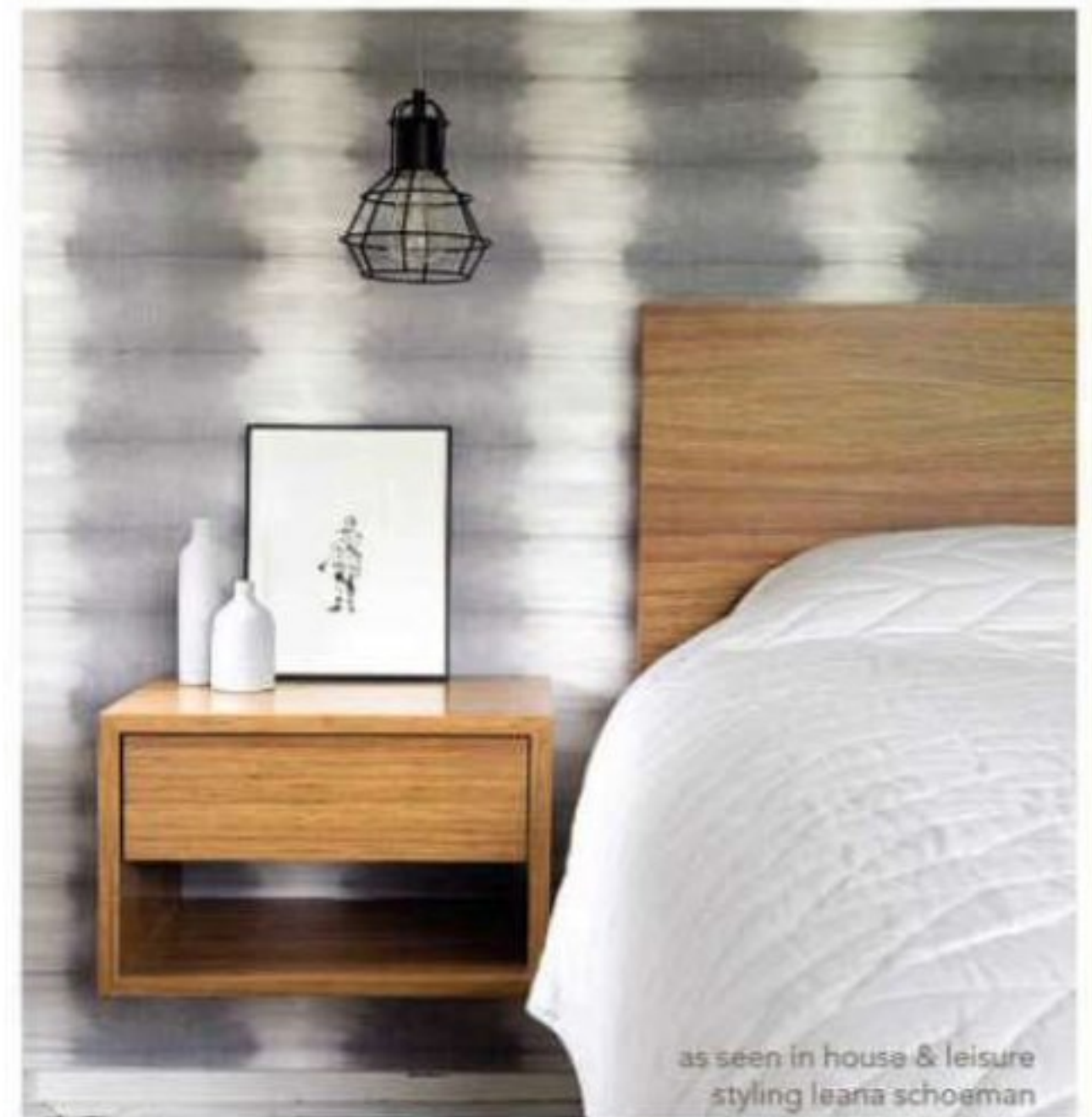


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Solution to Crossword #102

Competition Rules 1 Home competitions are open to anyone in South Africa except the employees of Media24, the competition sponsors, their subsidiaries, promotional and advertising agencies and immediate family members. **2** Prizes will be awarded to the first correct entries drawn and winners will be notified telephonically or via email. **3** SMS competition winners will be chosen at random from the total SMS entries received. **4** The decision of the organisers is final and no correspondence will be entered into. **5** Prizes cannot be amended, transferred, extended or exchanged for cash. **6** The sponsors are responsible for fulfilment of the prizes and Home cannot be held responsible for problems or delays in delivery of prizes. **7** Prizes to be redeemed within 6 months of notification; extensions only accepted if agreed upon in writing with prize sponsors.

NOTE Because of variations occurring in the printing process, paint colours shown in the magazine may not be 100% accurate.



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In August

...we seek affordable luxury
(with a touch of glitz and glam)

DÉCOR

Dramatic details and floral flair abound in these **richly textured** homes + All about **cement** finishes



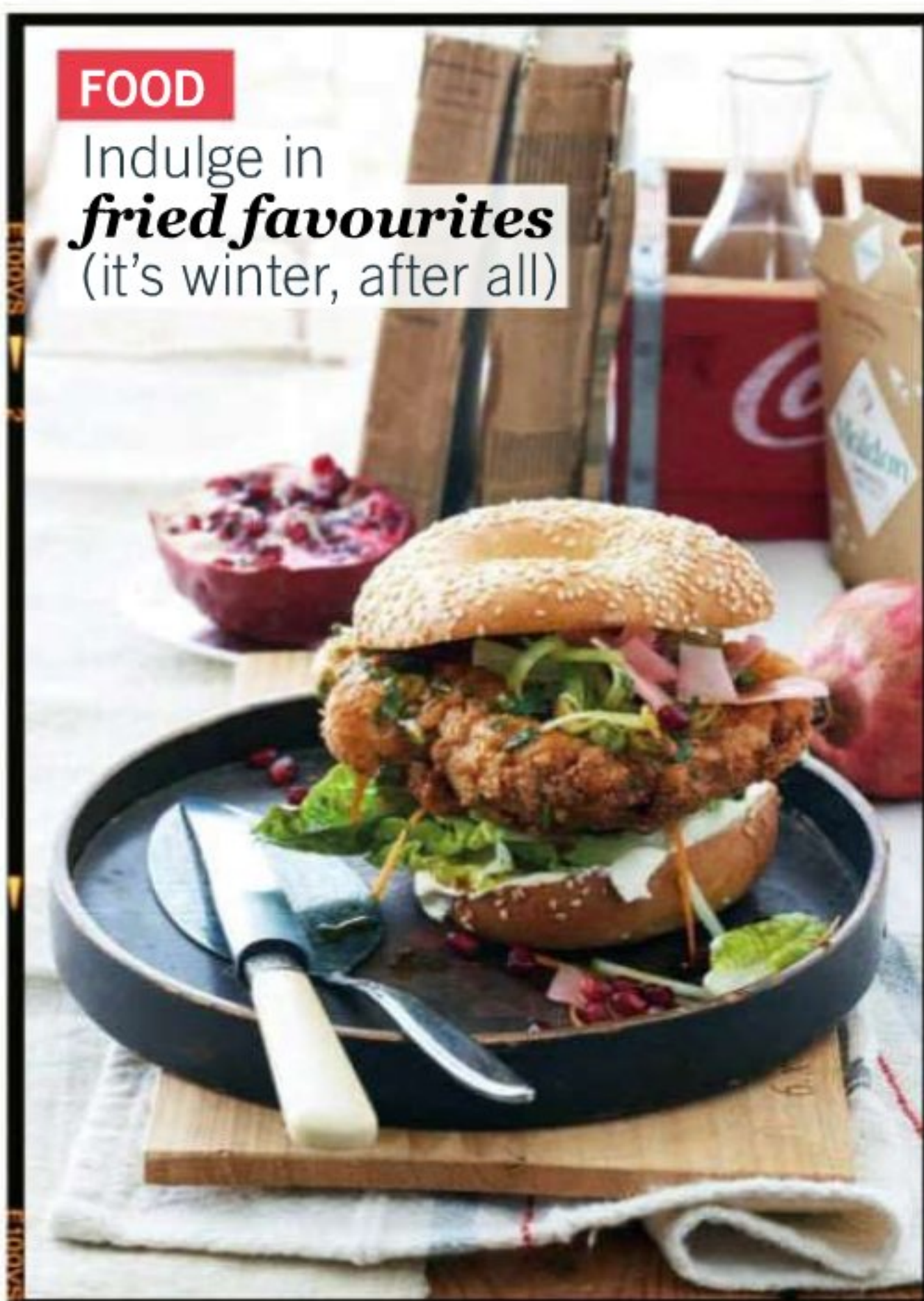
GARDENS

A therapeutic garden full of quiet corners + Choose the right décor for outdoor spaces



FOOD

Indulge in **fried favourites**
(it's winter, after all)



+ **All things French** in a stunning courtyard, kitchen & bathroom makeover

DIY

Show off with a **swanky sideboard**



Next month in **home** On sale 17 July 2017



Make a meal of it

What makes us remember a dish – is it the quality of the food or how much it cost? No, says Riana Scheepers, it's who you were with, where you had it and how hungry you were at the time.

Radio talk shows are not my favourite. But, recently, I ended up listening to one, first in amazement and then with much enjoyment.

It usually takes three or four minutes before callers to these shows exercise their democratic right to publicly show how ignorant, racist or completely crazy they are. I usually get so annoyed at the blunders people make that I simply turn off the radio. Silence is much better for my state of mind than the remote possibility that I will hear a few pearls of wisdom. But this programme managed to grab my attention. The subject matter? The best meal you've ever had.

I was about to switch off the radio when I heard what they were discussing, but then I was pleasantly surprised.

At first, I thought people would call in about the most expensive meals they'd had in some or other top restaurant. But in actual fact, not one person said that the best meal they'd ever had was in a restaurant.

What did they share, with a hint of nostalgia in their voices? They called in about the simplest food you could imagine. Mealie pap topped with relish on a cold winter's morning in Ouma's kitchen. Two youngsters who had shot a dove with a slingshot and cooked it over the coals right there in the veld. Today, as an adult, said Koos, he fondly remembers that dove they braaied without any salt, and how much he and his buddy Thabo enjoyed it.

Someone else called in and said, "There is nothing better than green bean stew on a slice of bread. The way his mom served it. Another woman said, "Nothing beats a pudding from a platteland church fête; the greener and redder and wobblier, the better."

The callers all confirmed what I already knew: that it is not so much about the quality of the food but rather about where it was eaten. And the circumstances. And who you were with. And, of course, how hungry you were. It might be a cliché but it's true – hunger is the best sauce. Everything tastes especially good when you are hungry. And you're not fussy.



I'm not fussy about food – I love it all. And if it's made by a friend and the company is good, then a cheese sandwich can be a feast.

If I had to call the radio station, what would I tell them?

I remembered one of my own culinary highlights but I was certainly not planning to phone in and share it. Chances were that someone listening would immediately switch off the radio!

My husband and I were once in Namibia. As always,

when we are there we try to spend at least one night in the veld. After dinner, with the kids and our friends who were with us fed and cared for, we grabbed a mattress and a sleeping bag and jumped into the bakkie. We headed for the dunes. My adventurous husband also grabbed a bottle of port and two glasses. As the moon rose that night, we sat against the dune, drinking our port from elegant glasses. We saw a lone gemsbok on the crest of the dune, its horns silhouetted against the moon. We slept enfolded in the arms of the night; a deep, sweet slumber.

When the sun rose the next morning, we sat, shivering somewhat, in its bleak rays. We were dying for a cup of coffee and some rusks but in our haste to get away the previous night, we'd forgotten them.

What could we have as a breakfast substitute? Half a bottle of good port. My husband also discovered a packet of sweets – those awful balls that turn your mouth black and change colour the longer you suck them. Left behind by the kids who'd driven the bakkie the day before.

So, what is the best breakfast in the world? Port and black balls. That morning, the folk at home had to cook their own breakfast.

My husband and I were savouring the best breakfast in the world. And celebrating life.

Riana

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Illustration by Paula Dubois • Translation by Gillian Eva

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